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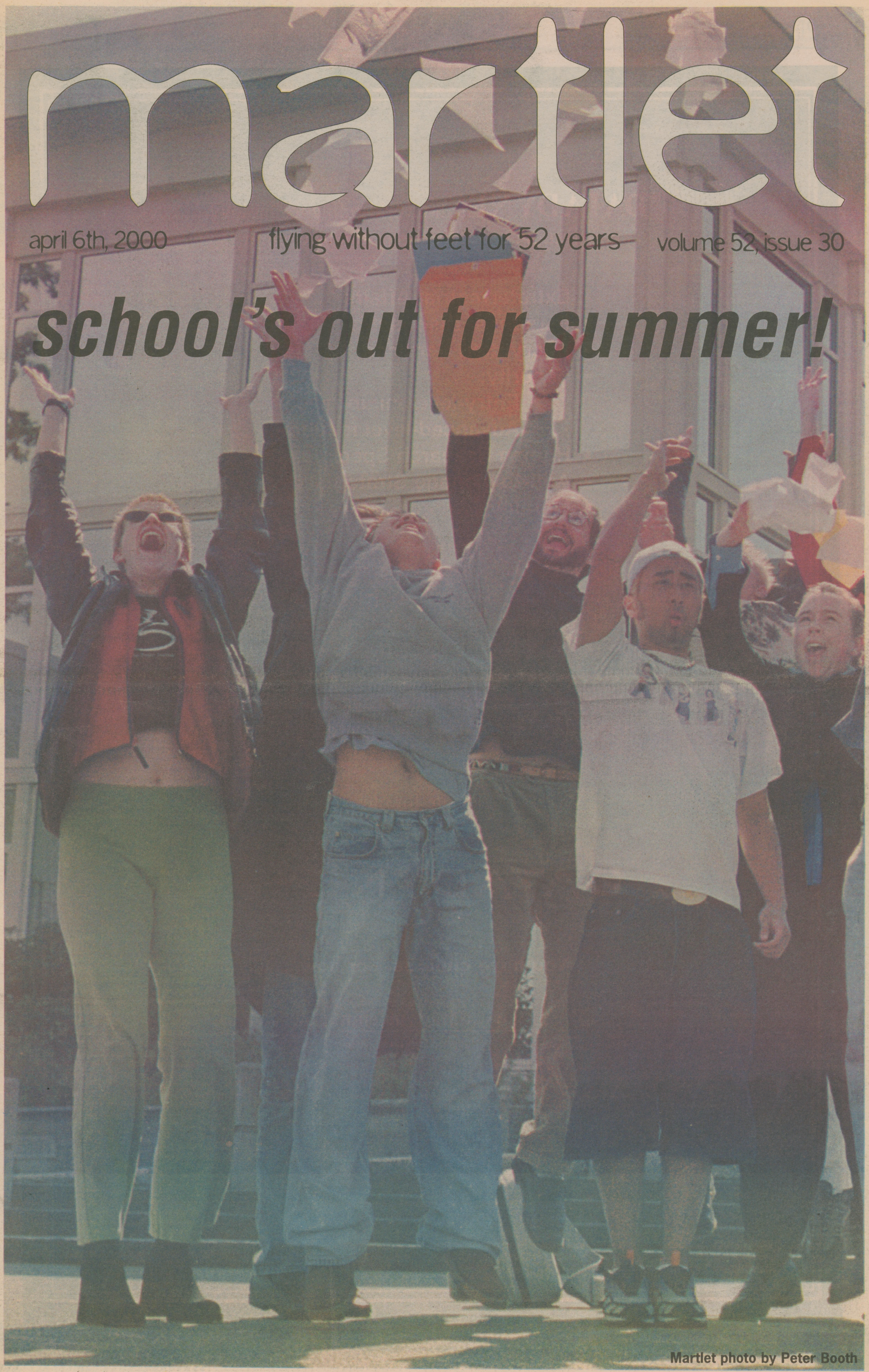

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Pension funds in Talisman raises ethical questions

BY GILLIAN JEROME AND MARNI FRIESEN

The annual reports for two UVic employee pension plans show investments in several companies accused of environmental and human rights violations, calling to question once again the university's business ethics.

The pension report for faculty and professionals shows stock ownership in several multinationals targeted by human rights and environmental watch groups including Shell, Talisman Energy Inc., Chevron, Slocan Forest Products, Abitibi-Consolidated Inc., Domtar Forestry Products, Donohue Inc., Alcan, General Electric, Barrick Gold Corp, Cominco and Rio Algom.

The most recent controversy concerns Talisman, a Calgary-based oil company operating in Sudan, which is linked to the civil war there between the Islamic regime and the anti-government rebels.

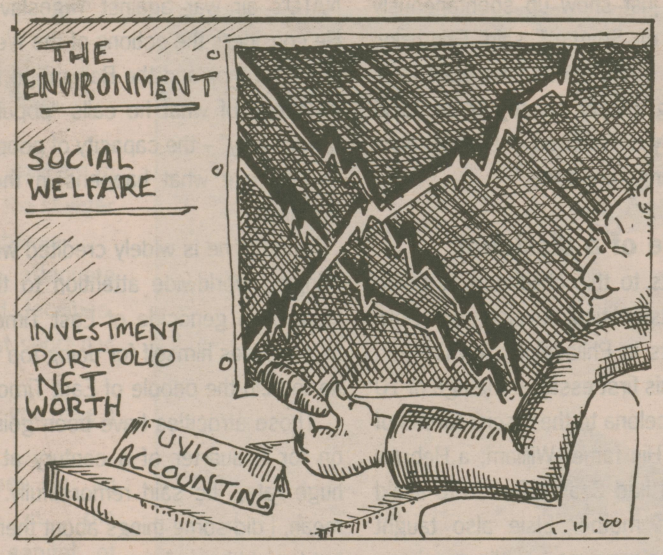
Questions surrounding ownership of Talisman stocks have caused York University's Board of Trustees to create a long-term policy to safeguard itself against unethical investments.

In the US, teachers have begun to divest their Talisman stocks, where the idea of de-listing the company from the American Stock Exchange has been tossed around.

UVic's $366 million dollar retirement trust for faculty and professionals shows Talisman shares worth about $2.2 million, according to the annual report dated Dec. 31, 1999. The shares in the pension plan for university staff total 10,700 with a market value of $394, 830, about half a percent of the $87.5 million in trust.

So far, UVic doesn't have a policy similar to York University's, although ethics has become a hot topic here on campus. In the wake of a series of debates involving the ethical implications of a growing corporate presence, the report on faculty pensions has some students and faculty taking a closer look at the plan.

At least one professor is exploring her options. Environmental philosophy professor Jan Zwicky calls the pension set up "problematic." Although she's sympathetic to her colleague's concerns about retirement security for themselves and their families, she believes the plan should allow its members to manage their own funds according to their values.



Although individual members paying into the plan have the right to voice their ethical concerns about specific companies to the board of trustees, the pension operates according to trust law, which makes it difficult for people whose beliefs fall outside the interests of the majority.

According to the manager of pension administration, Susan Service, the bottom line is getting "the best return at the lowest risk."

The 1,369 UVic faculty and professionals, whose payment into the plan is almost tripled by the university, are represented by four trustees whom they elect to make decisions "in the best interests" of the majority, says Service. The remaining four pension trustees are appointed by the Board of Governors.

A very large majority of pension trust members would have to be in favour of a policy on ethics before it could be implemented. "You can't disadvantage a large group in the interests of a minority, even a large minority...ultimately our obligation is to the members of the trust," says Service.

Individual members are free to bring their concerns to trustees. So far, no such action has ever resulted in divesting for ethical purposes.

Service points out the challenges of setting up a policy on ethical investments for the pension fund.

"Company X may be banned, but company Y who is 'ok' may directly or indirectly hold shares or bonds of company X. This can be particularly difficult to track if company Y is a multinational conglomerate who frequently trades securities."

Along with purchasing individual stocks, pension money is wrapped up in index, equity and float funds, which don't necessarily list the companies they invest in. Although a particular company may be divested on ethical grounds, shares could still be held in that company indirectly through such funds.

"The index funds by their very nature must hold all the stocks in a particular index (e.g. the TSE300)," writes Service in an e-mail. "The investment decisions are made passively. Taken to the extreme, a specific policy on company selection would preclude a fund from participating in any index funds or purchasing the shares of any company who owns index funds."

Investment managing companies who deal only with ethical companies aren't hard to find. According to Sarah Poucher of Acuity Investing, it's possible to develop an investment policy that is both profitable and socially responsible. Technology companies, for example, do not directly impact on the environment or human rights, and can provide a very good rate of return. She believes that the trend toward ethical investing is having an effect on corporate practices: "More companies are aware that investors are concerned about these issues."

It's doubtful the university will actually commit itself to ethical investing, or that faculty will make a clear, ethical stand on their pension money.

While the pension fund is virtually untouchable, pressuring the university to adopt a general policy is more realistic, although it's still controversial.

"I don't believe that it is the role of the University to make decisions about other people's money," said Brock Smith, director of the Faculty of Business. "Ethical funds would deliver lower profits, and provide more risk in the long run."

-with CUP files

for more stories, see page 5

Arbour responds to UVic honour

BY CARMEL ECKER

Canada's newest Supreme Court Justice, Louise Arbour says she's excited about receiving an honourary degree from UVic on April 7.

Arbour, best known for her work with the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia (ICTY) and Rwanda (ICTR), said the university's law school is excellent and she is looking forward to learning more about the rest of the university.

Working for the ICT was exhilarating, Arbour said, because it was pioneering work for a criminal lawyer since nothing like it has been launched since the Nuremburg trials, for which the International Military Tribunal was established after WWII. The prosecution indicted 24 individuals during the first trial alone.

Arbour, the ICT's first chief prosecutor, said her position was "challenging culturally because you have to get used to working with people from different legal systems."

As of Jan. 2000, ICTY had 832 staff from 68 countries while ICTR had 729 from over 80 countries.

Law, said Arbour, is culturally sensitive.

Being a woman in the ICT environment was not particularly difficult, said Arbour, because women are prominent in the upper ranks now. There is "starting to be a core group of women in war crimes," she said.

The ICTY's president, vice president, chief prosecutor and registrar as well as several judges are all women.

However, there was some resistance toward women in the field and Arbour said she didn't come into contact with any women in the military who were at her level.

Many people in the international community, including several Canadian lawyers, have criticized Arbour for not holding the North Atlantic Treaty Organization responsible for civilian deaths in Kosovo and the *National Post* has recently uncovered documents suggesting she may have withheld documents pertaining to the assassination of Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana.

In response to suggestions that she did not do her job as ICT chief prosecutor for Rwanda and Yugoslavia, Arbour said, "I did what I had to do there."

Arbour said she accepted the position of chief prosecutor for the ICT because "this was the most advanced form of criminal law that I would see in my life."

Although it wasn't quite what she expected, Arbour said she would have accepted the job even if she had known that it would be 90 per cent politics.

Arbour said the ICT was an unprecedented step forward in establishing a World Criminal Court.

The first step toward a world court was taken at a UN conference in Rome on July 17, 1998 when 120 countries signed the Statute of the International Criminal Court.

The United States opposed the statute and Canada abstained from voting.

As for the future, Arbour said she doesn't know what will happen after the Supreme Court. "You never know what the planet will look like when I'm finished here," she said.

on the spot

Do you think UVic has a responsibility to invest ethically?

by Brenda Martin

laura keble
2nd year english

"Yes,this is a multicultural country and university is a place where youth learn to be aware of what's around them."

lee ferreira
2nd year earth and ocean science

"No, it is a good idea because someone will complain but they shouldn't feel obliged."

chris sheaff
2nd year philosophy

"Yes, everybody has that responsibility in the first place but I would expect the university to recognize the responsibility especially."

nick isaac
1st year business

"Yes, why should investing be void of ethical motives?"

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Thinking big: an interview with Noam Chomsky

BY BEN ISITT

We often hear that people "sell out" over time. Youthful idealism gives way to aging cynicism as the '60s radical emerges as the modern-day CEO. Progressive politics are all right for a time, we are told, but eventually everyone needs to grow up and accept the system as it is.

Someone should tell this to Noam Chomsky. At 71, the linguistics professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) refuses to abandon his anarchist ideals. The man the New York Times once described as "arguably the most important intellectual alive today," shows no signs of slowing down.

When most people his age are enjoying golden years of golf, bingo, and fishing, Chomsky maintains a feverish schedule of public speaking, teaching, and writing. He spent six weeks last fall on a speaking tour of Italy and continues to teach at MIT, as well as producing a steady flow of books and papers.

Chomsky is motivated to expose the government, using his education to see beyond what he calls the "veil of distortion and misrepresentation, ideology and class interest."

Chomsky paints a grim picture and many dismiss his ideas as conspiracy theory, yet he has developed an impressive following around the world. One study found him to be the most-cited living author, ranking him among the top ten most-cited authors of all time, just behind Shakespeare, Plato and Freud.

A visionary of sorts, Chomsky was asked in 1992 by an Australian journalist where the next popular movement would emerge.

"There's a core question which has not been addressed," Chomsky replied. "It's basically the question of corporate power. Decisions about human life are being raised to a level so high that even parliaments are not influencing them."

He said a de facto world government is being established, involving major powers like the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, designed to be insulated from any form of popular pressure and reflect the interests of transnational corporations and international banks.

"What's misleadingly called 'globalization' is, in primary respects, an attack on democracy and popular sovereignty."

Seven years later, 50,000 people from across North America flooded the streets of Seattle and shut down the WTO's much-anticipated Millennium Round talks.

"People didn't just show up spontaneously on the streets of Seattle," said Chomsky. "That was due to years of intensive educational and organizing efforts, mostly at the local level, which finally crystallized in Seattle. Now that's the way things are done."

The life of a dissident

Chomsky points to this childhood as being instrumental in his political development. Born to Jewish parents in Philadelphia on Dec. 7, 1928, he wrote his first essay at the age of 10 on the fall of Barcelona to the fascist forces of General Franco. His father William, a Hebrew grammarian, had fled Czarist Russia to avoid conscription. His mother Elsie also taught Hebrew and was a renowned public speaker.

"Remember, I grew up in the Depression. My earliest childhood memories are of miserable people coming to the house – we weren't that wealthy, but what was called middle class – and trying to sell rags or apples just to survive."

The young Chomsky moved to New York during the Second World War, where he was exposed to the radical left-wing politics that flourished around his uncle's newsstand on the corner of 72nd Street and Broadway. He even contemplated moving to Palestine in the mid-1940s to further the formation of a socialist, bi-national (Jewish and Arab) society.

Chomsky has been labeled a "self-hating Jew" for his opposition to the Jewish state of Israel that emerged after 1948 and for defending the free-speech rights of French Holocaust denier Robert Faurisson.

"Faurisson's conclusions are diametrically opposed to views I hold," Chomsky wrote in the 1981 Faurisson Affair. "But it is elementary that freedom of expression – including academic freedom – is not to be restricted to views of which one approves."

Chomsky entered academia at the age of 16, studying linguistics, math, and philosophy at the University of Pennsylvania, where he earned a B.A. in 1949, a master's in 1951, and a Ph.D. in 1955. Much of his doctoral research took place during a fellowship at Harvard. He landed a teaching position at MIT in 1955 and has taught there ever since.

His 1957 theory of an universal grammar – an inherent coding for language in humans – marked a revolution in linguistics, sending shockwaves throughout academia.

During the Vietnam War, Chomsky was one of the most vocal critics of American policy, and was arrested for civil disobedience. Over 30 years later, Chomsky continues his work, unwavering in his opposition to NATO's air war against Yugoslavia. He considers the actions of the West in East Timor and the Balkans to be violations of what he calls "popular sovereignty" – the capacity of people to influence what happens in their own lives.

Although he is widely credited with bringing worldwide attention to the Indonesian genocide of East Timor, he chastises himself for doing too little to help the people of East Timor.

"Those atrocities have been going on for a quarter of a century at a huge rate," he said remorsefully. "I mean, I did some things about them, but I could have done way more."

In the 1992 National Film Board film *Manufacturing Consent: Noam Chomsky and the Media*, he argues that in the absence of force, democratic societies control their populations through the mass media. Voices that are too radical are simply excluded from mainstream discourse.

"It's not illegal in the United States or Canada for you, say, to publish a newspaper to compete with Conrad Black," he says. "You're legally entitled to do it. But the organization and structure of the system is such that, in effect, you can't."

Chomsky puts Conrad Black's takeover of the Canadian newspaper industry in the context of globalization.

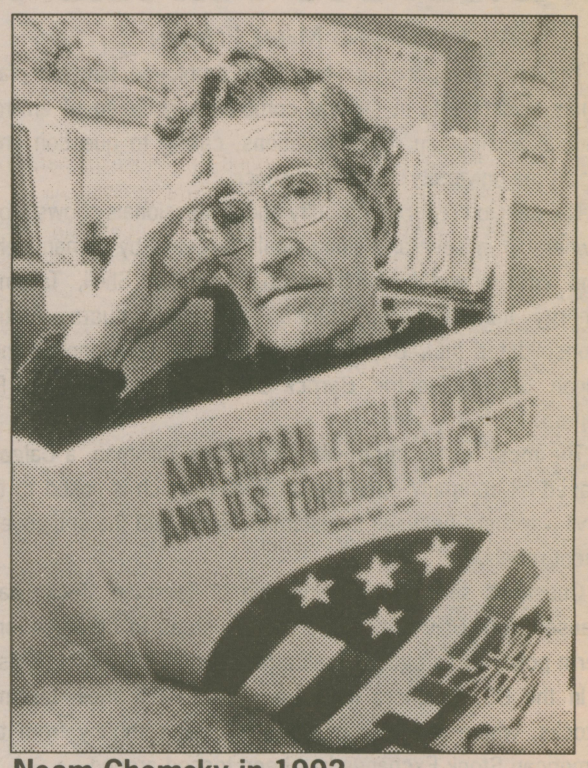
"These mega-corporations are, internally, essentially tyrannical."

Fewer companies are controlling larger and larger assets, he warns, pointing to examples in the telecommunications, automotive, pharmaceutical and civilian aircraft sectors.

"Does that tendency in the media – say, the takeover by Black – restrict the variety of opinion, expression, freedom of interchange, and so on?" Chomsky asked. "Sure. What would one expect?"

Chomsky acknowledges that the Internet has the potential to change this situation, but warns that the technology is steadily falling under corporate control. Although the development of Internet technology was paid for by public funds, by 1995 these largely public creations were handed over as a "huge gift to private corporations," he says. Internet descriptors like "information superhighway" have given way to others like "e-commerce" as the Internet is increasingly accessed through a small number of portals controlled by major corporations like AOL-Warner.

Chomsky argues that all is not lost, pointing out the "liberating potential" of Internet technologies. According to Chomsky, the Internet was instrumental in organizing factions against the Suharto regime and the MAI.



Noam Chomsky in 1992.

Photo provided

Two visions of the future

In one of Chomsky's recent works, he referred to the 20th century as "the terrible century that has finally come to a horrifying, wrenching close."

Amidst threats of nuclear war and ecological catastrophe, the century ahead could be one of either destruction or liberation, he says.

"It could be much worse," said Chomsky. "The coming century could be the one which spells the end of human life on earth."

However, Chomsky thinks it's possible to reverse the trend towards corporate control.

"[Corporations are] not facts of nature. They're not like mountains. They're human creations. They're granted the authority they have by formally democratic societies, but it happens without any popular participation. Those rights and privileges can be withdrawn and the institutions can be changed. There's no law of nature that prevents them from being taken over by their own workforce."

Chomsky envisions a more free, democratic and just society – based essentially on anarchist principles, but he is reluctant to construct detailed plans.

"You have to see what works, what doesn't work, experiment, interact, and out of those experiences forge modalities of popular control and voluntary association and so on," said Chomsky. "You can build the germs of much more free structures and communities within existing institutions. That's sort of how you build the future in the present society."

Despite his lofty ideals, Chomsky and his personal life is down to earth. He likes gardening, spending time with his family, and "conservative" music. However, he is hesitant to answer personal questions, shunning any attempt to mold him into a celebrity.

Considering his fame and the frantic pace of his life – ping-ponging across the globe delivering lectures to packed audiences, unraveling the contradictions of Western foreign policy from his home computer, injecting some truth into our mass-mediated world – Noam Chomsky is remarkably humble. But will he ever slow down?

"That depends on whether I listen to my life, my wife and my grandchildren," Chomsky explained. "My grandson called me up the other day... He said he had two knock-down arguments as to why I should retire. One was that I already had enough money. The other was that if I retire I can play with him all the time, not just some of the time."

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Stocks part of growing concern

BY GILLIAN JEROME AND MARNI FRIESEN

Ethical investment is a growing concern on North American campuses, where billions of dollars are tied up in corporations.

In the US, where profit margins are much higher, a Yale-based student group called Student Alliance to Reform Corporations (STARC) lobbies colleges and universities to audit companies for conduct that harms animals, humans, and the environment.

Although the stakes are smaller, UVic alone has millions of dollars tied up in corporate shares.

Stocks and funds are bought with student trust money, employee pension money and the university's short term investment funds. Short term investment alone sits at about $25 to $50 million on average, although it's been as high as $250 million, depending on the month, said Bob Worth, UVic's executive director of finance. The money comes from both public and private sources including federal and provincial transfers, research grants and contracts, foreign government agencies and corporate sponsorship.

At UVic, students are generally the ones leading the war on companies like Talisman.

Two years ago the UVic Senate took a stand against human rights abuse by declining a $2,000 scholarship offered to any upper level geology, geophysics or physics student by Shell Canada.

Shell was accused of not only overriding the rights of Nigeria's indigenous Ogoni people, but also of being complicit in the 1995 hanging of Ogoni activist Dr. Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other anti-Shell activists.

The scholarship was dropped and then student Senators Ritu Mahil and Sandra Guarisco asked that the university abstain from investing in the company, regardless of potential profits. Their amendment to the Senate was withdrawn.

However, Guarisco, a law and public administration student, says she's not convinced dropping the Shell scholarship was a great victory for students. "What we really did in the end was deny students support," she said. "It's tough sitting at that table and having to fight for every penny going to students, only to take money from it counts... Corporate presence is more insidious than showing up in scholarships or in the renaming of a building."

Guarisco said the university needs a clear policy on ethical investing for the entire academic community to be held accountable to.

"We have to be clear about ethics before we're tempted with the forbidden fruit," she said. "Universities promote thought, vision and planning... We have a social responsibility to do things in consideration of all of society or we're defeating our purpose."

At the same time, she said she sees how some people turn a blind eye to where our money comes from.

"Turning down big donations [from multinationals] is fine if you're Yale or Harvard, but how does UVic say no to money in the same way that Yale or Harvard does?"

While students are leading the battle, it's not an easy one to fight. Without a clear policy or an overall investment audit, many companies involved in glaring ethical faux pas slip through the cracks.

Last year UVSS director of academics Kari Worton asked for a copy of the staff pension report after activists working to protect the Great Bear Rainforest reminded students that the university invests in West Fraser, a company logging Great Bear.

When Tim Harvey and Worton went to the Board of Governors (BoG) to ask how to get the university to divest its West Fraser holdings, they were told a petition with 100 signatures was required.

Within weeks, the West Fraser stocks were dropped.

Worth says BoG is the only administrative body on campus with a policy on ethics. It states that any staff person or student can approach the board with ethical concerns about its investments.

The policy was adopted after the 1995 controversy over Québec Hydro's plans to dam river inlets in James Bay, altering caribou migration patterns, says Worth. UVic law student Matt Polard was responsible for seeing the policy ratified.

Worth says the university has taken a collective moral stand once before. In the 1980s there was a general boycott on investments benefiting South Africa which ended when Nelson Mandela was elected.

But it's clear that a general policy affecting all university money isn't popular. Dr. Brock Smith, director of the Faculty of Business, is opposed to combining ethical investing and pension funds.

However, he does think some ethical standards may be appropriate when it comes to other university holdings, such as scholarship, endowment or bursary funds.

"A policy could be set up that makes a statement about what you do or don't condone. Identify who you don't want to invest in, rather than limiting yourself to a small group of companies with exemplary ethical practices. You don't want to put all your eggs in one basket, but there should be some room for political statements."

Smith suggests periodical reviews of the university's holdings, where specific companies' records could be reviewed and their desirability assessed.

However, even this process could be fraught with difficulties, he said.

"Who will make these decisions? I don't think everyone would be comfortable with just a handful of people making decisions about where everyone's money is going to go."

See STARC's website at www.corpreform.org, or the CFS at www.cfs-fcee.ca.

Talisman, which owns 25 per cent of a drilling project in southern Sudan, is accused of partially funding the civil war there.

Since seizing power 10 years ago, the Islamic Khartoum government, a military regime, has been in constant battle with Christians and Animists living in southern Sudan. Sudan's on-going civil war has resulted in the deaths of over two million people.

In mid-February John Harker, an independent fact-finder commissioned by Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy, released a report examining Talisman's involvement with the Sudanese civil war. The results were disturbing: civilians living around oil sites were being forcibly displaced by the Sudanese government. In fact, Harker's team found the airstrip located in Talisman's oil operating base was being used for military purposes by the government.

UVic faculty and professional pension fund highlights:

General Electric
Short term notes worth $5, 692, 881

Alcan Aluminium (metals and minerals)
BF stocks: 19,000 at $1, 128, 600 market value; DRBA stocks: 7,700 shares at $457, 380 market value*

Slocan (forest products)
60,000 shares @ $750,000 market value

Barrick Gold Corp
31,200 shares at $803,400 market value

Cominco (metal and minerals)
35,500 shares at $1,077, 425 market value

Rio Algom (uranium mining)
26,000 shares at $559,000 market value

Shell Canada Class A (oil and gas)
25,000 shares at $732, 500 market value

*the acronyms BF and DRBA reflect two separate plans

Additional resources:

The Activist Research Manual (on loan in the VPIRG office, SUB B122).

On the Web, try the US-based www.corpwatch.org/research, the Indigenous Environmental Network at www.ien@igc.org, the investor reponsibility research centre at irrc@aol.com, the multinational monitor at www.essential.org/monitor/monitor.html or www.minewatch@gn.apc.org.

Ethical investing sites include www.ethicalfunds.com, www.acuityfunds.com, www.paxfund.com, and www.dubuquebank.com, www. parnassus.com.

What the profs think

When we placed calls to over a dozen professors, board members and university administrators who pay into the plan, citing the facts on Talisman, professor Jan Zwicky was the only person to express a desire for any further investigation into a policy on ethical investing.

Retired political science professor Neil Swainson said he'd prefer not to have his retirement funded by profit from cigarette and alcohol companies, although he "never caused a fuss" during his 20 years at UVic.

But as far as human rights are concerned, "the charges levied against most companies are debatable," he said. "Although there is a case for avoiding investments which are ethically questionable."

Having lived through both the stock market crash in 1929 and the strong collapse of the market in the late 60s, Swainson said he's more concerned about cautious investing.

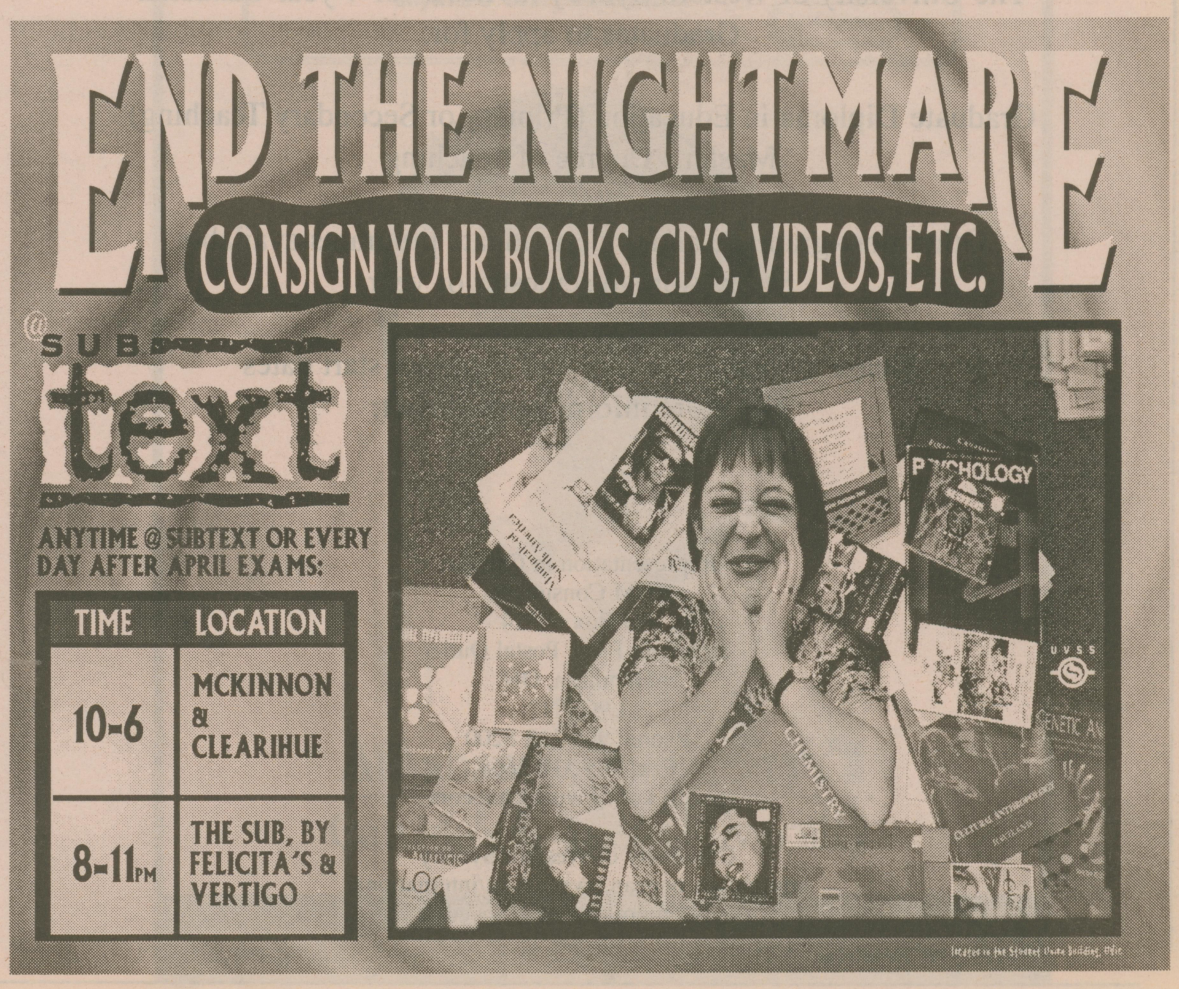
Sociology professor and former pension board member Dr. Daniel Koenig called the need for policy on ethical investment "a very valid point."

"Talisman just reeks and probably a few other companies on the list reek as well. I couldn't tell you for sure because I haven't looked at them. You're making me feel guilty actually," he said.

Koenig said that "to the best of his knowledge" he's never heard of any opposition to the investment portfolio, or any initiative to look at ethical investing. However, he said a committee was struck among faculty 20 years ago to talk about why the rate of return was so poor.

Math professor Bill Gordon, who just finished his term on the Board of Trustees for the pension, said he has "no interest in commenting on this issue either on the telephone or in person."

"I've lived at the university a long time," said Gordon. "And I know what students are like."



Web geek talks about paper's doom

BY CRAIG BATTLE

Newspapers are the Eaton's of the information world, said writer and former journalist Gordon Macdonald during an informal lecture at the university.

Macdonald, a former editor with *The Globe and Mail*, *Vancouver Sun* and *Business in Vancouver*, likened newspapers to the fallen consumer giant to emphasize his main point that newspapers are dead and the Internet is just coming alive.

The 28-year-old writer recently left print media for his current position as managing content editor of Communicate.com, a company that claims to be "ushering in the economic network of the future."

"Eaton's was power in Canada, now it's gone," Macdonald said. "The newspaper industries have seen the end. Nobody cares about the industry anymore."

Macdonald faults the newspaper industry with taking a "half-baked" attempt at pleasing all possible readers, just as Eaton's tried to attract both upper and lower-end consumers. He said that newspapers fail in their effort to combine the speed and clarity of the Internet with the targeted, well thought-out information of magazines.

"Being all things to all people doesn't work anymore."

Macdonald said that while North American population and wealth continue to rise, interest in newspapers continues to fall. He said newspaper readership is declining by about one per cent each year, while seven people join the Internet every second.

People do not want to buy newspapers because they are not targeted enough for their needs. The Internet is simply a better way to present information.

Vanishing readership was one of the main reasons for Macdonald's departure from *Business in Vancouver*.

During his time at the paper, the number of subscribers jumped from 9,500 to 12,000 then back down to 10,000. When he called people to ask why they had not renewed their subscriptions, former subscribers said that they could find what they wanted on the Internet.

"People do not want to buy newspapers because they are not targeted enough for their needs," Macdonald said. "The Internet is simply a better way to present information."

While he laughs at the Saturday feature articles in the *Times-Colonist*, Macdonald admits he subscribes to magazines such as *Forbes* as he feels it contains focused, relevant information.

In his push towards on-line information, Macdonald also wants to eliminate the limitations of the printing press. He believes the press hinders what people can produce because of paper and printing costs. As well, he believes the Internet will waste less paper than the current modes of information.

"There is no sense in killing all those trees to put out the *Vancouver Sun*," Macdonald said. "You're just going to throw it out the next day."

Beyond that, he feels the newspapers can't keep up with changing times, and that the masters of the industry are out for profit only.

"It's a culture of repetition you do something over and over and over again, and you make money," Macdonald said. "Newspapers don't have the mind for change."

More opponents than supporters showed up to the Petch Fountain on April 4 to discuss the Heterosexual March.

Martlet photo by Carmel Ecker

Controversial het march a no-show

BY SIMON GLEZOS

What was intended as the University of Victoria's "First Annual Heterosexual March" ended up seeming more like a gay-pride rally.

Advertised on posters around campus for several weeks, the march was scheduled to take place at noon Monday April 4 at Petch fountain.

However, when the specified time rolled around, the only ones gathered were a small group of students mostly from UVic Pride – the university's queer network – intent on setting up an oppositional protest.

"We wanted to let whoever set this up know that it was totally inappropriate. It's disgusting. I almost find it kind of humorous in a disturbing sort of way," said social work student Leanne Drumheller.

Although none of the organizers of the event showed up, a few students showed up with the intent of participating in the march, including student Sandy Rosen.

"Different marches happen for different reasons," said Rosen. "I'm not here to mock homosexuals, I'm here to show that I'm a heterosexual."

Another group present consisted of students calling themselves Friends and Allies of Heterosexuals (FAH). The group went to the fountain with the intent of supporting the heterosexual marchers.

"We showed up to support our heterosexual friends, because we always expect them to support us at our marches, so we thought it was the right thing to do," said FAH spokesperson Cierra Dahlquist. "We believe in freedom of expression for everyone, and that includes straight people."

UVSS chairperson Morgan Stewart was skeptical about the entire basis of the march.

"I see no point in men marching, especially as heterosexuals," said Stewart. "It feels to me like it was a giant spoof."

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Cell phones and Internet, plagiarism goes high tech

BY STEPHANIE THIESSEN AND AMY CARMICHAEL

TORONTO – Cheat sheets written on sweaty palms are becoming passé in exam rooms.

These days, cheaters are joining the digital world by using cell phones and pagers with memory – which are easy to glance at when a professor turns down another aisle – or notepad computers that can be read during a quick trip to the washroom.

"I just got a memo telling me to look for people who keep checking their watches, just in case they've got a computer or something in there," said Janet Lum, a politics professor at Ryerson University. "Anything is possible now."

Even if they catch you with a phone, you can just turn it off and they'll have trouble finding what you were looking at.

Dennis Mock, Ryerson's vice-president of academics, says he has increased the number of monitors on patrol during exams. All the monitors can do is trust their instincts in sniffing out cheaters.

"A little cell phone is easier to hide than a book of papers or answers written all over your arms," said one cheater. "Even if they catch you with a phone, you can just turn it off and they'll have trouble finding what you were looking at."

Politics professor Mike Burke says he can usually tell a cheater.

"They look nervous," he said. "They make odd kinds of movements. They're always looking down. And if they have a full exam book after the first five minutes, that's a dead give away."

Exam rooms, however, aren't the only place where students cheat. Some students are getting essays off the Internet.

John Cook, head of the English department at Ryerson University, says students can get into serious trouble by plagiarizing Internet essays.

"Chances are you will get caught," he said. "If it's professionally written, the professor will recognize it. If it's by another student, it's harder, but [the professor] will notice the difference between how you write on the exam and on the essay."

Everybody leaves a fingerprint in the writing that shows his or her individuality, Cook added.

"If a different [fingerprint] is inserted, it can be simple to spot," he said. Although most papers come as a result of students' hard work and thought, Cook says every once in a while he's "shocked" by clearly plagiarized work.

Yet it is harder to catch students plagiarizing essays than cheating on an exam. That is why some professors are starting to use technology to beat students at their own game.

"I was cruising the web, looking at essays," said philosophy professor Kenneth Montague. "And there it was. The very same essay I had just marked was staring at me on the computer screen, and it wasn't written by the student who had handed it in."

Montague gave the student a zero on the essay.

I was cruising the web, looking at essays and there it was. The very same essay I had just marked was staring at me on the computer screen, and it wasn't written by the student who had handed it in.

He's found some commercial services on the web that check essays for plagiarism for a fee, but says he's not that committed to catching cheaters.

Philosophy professor Kenneth Montague, meanwhile, tells a story of a student he caught handing in an essay that wasn't his own.

"It was too good," he said. "I checked out a website and thought, 'Boy, I'm looking at another guy's essay.'"

Montague called the student into his office, pretending not to notice the original essay that was displayed on his computer screen.

"He was sitting there sweating," Montague said. "I thoroughly enjoyed it."

Marie Dowler, director of Ryerson's writing centre, says material students download from the Internet is often not useful.

"Much of the stuff is rubbish," she said. "There's no guarantee that people who are in the business of helping you cheat won't cheat on you."

Michael Von Plato, president of an American website called Al Termpaper, says he doesn't like it when people hold him responsible for students who use his services to plagiarize essays.

He says he has around 20,000 pre-written term papers on his site.

In red letters on the website is a warning that the papers should be used for research purposes only. However, Von Plato said he can't guarantee his service is being used for the right reasons.

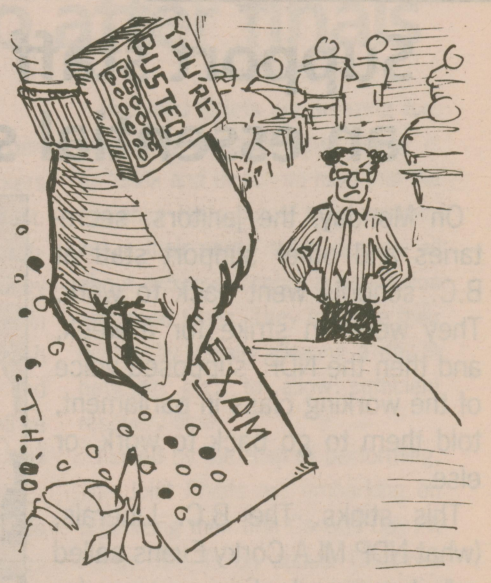
"If someone says they are going to hand the paper in, I say bye-bye," he said. "If you were an encyclopaedia salesperson and you wrote something, how could you guarantee that it wouldn't be plagiarizing?"

The battle against educators who disagree with his service has been long — in 1997, the company was sued by Boston University.

"The case was thrown out with an admonishment to the university that they had no right to bring it [to court] in the first place," Von Plato said.

The right to sell essays is protected under the freedom-of-speech provision in the U.S. constitution, he says.

"It's a slippery slope," Von Plato said. "To



what extent should a person be held responsible if he, in good faith, offers essays and says they're not for plagiarizing? If this is done anyway, should the distributor be held responsible?"

Von Plato says he supports the efforts of professors who try to track down the original source of a plagiarized paper, and is happy to tell the professor if the essay was purchased from him.

"More, I can't do," he said. Some students who use essays found on the web plagiarize unintentionally because they don't know how to cite sources appropriately.

First-year engineering student Joe Phong says his friend got caught plagiarizing an essay unknowingly.

"He went through the essay, using similar ideas but writing it in his own words," Phong said.

"The professor said it was plagiarizing and he got zero. But it wasn't stealing in his mind."

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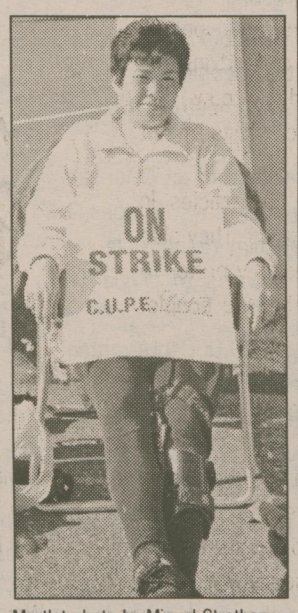
editorial

Support staff aren't an essential service



Martlet photo by Miguel Strother

On Monday, the janitors, secretaries and other support staff at B.C. schools went back to work. They were on strike for a week, and then the NDP, supposed voice of the working class in parliament, told them to go back to work, or else.

This stinks. The B.C. Liberals, (what NDP MLA Corky Evans called a "witness protection program for Socreds") wanted education declared an essential service, like firefighting and policing. The NDP bought into it and sent the support staff back to work for 60 days while an arbitrator fixes the problems between the workers at CUPE and the bosses at the school districts.

What are the NDP thinking? Here's a glimpse into the mind of our brand spanking new premier Ujjal Dosanjh. (Warning: not from Ujjal's real mind.)

"Hey, we're going nowhere in the polls. The only support we've got left is the unions. So let's piss them off too! That will get us elected!"

It won't get them elected and besides, it's a violation of the support workers' right to strike.

The right to strike is a basic human right. Labour rights are human rights. If it weren't for labour rights, the right to strike and the right to bargain collectively, we would not have forty hour work weeks, a minimum wage or health and safety standards.

We also wouldn't have viable unions, who are the ones who pressure the government to get us stuff like medicare, welfare, subsidized education and all the other things Canadians take for granted.

But what about all this essential services stuff? Surely the education of our young is an essential service.

It isn't. An essential service means something society cannot do without, like firefighting or the police. Without firefighters we're screwed. Without janitors in school we're inconvenienced. There's a big difference.

As for depriving our children of an education, that point could be raised if the strike was a month or two long, not just a week. But it was one week, not a month, and the only issue was some parents had to take care of their kids who would normally be in school.

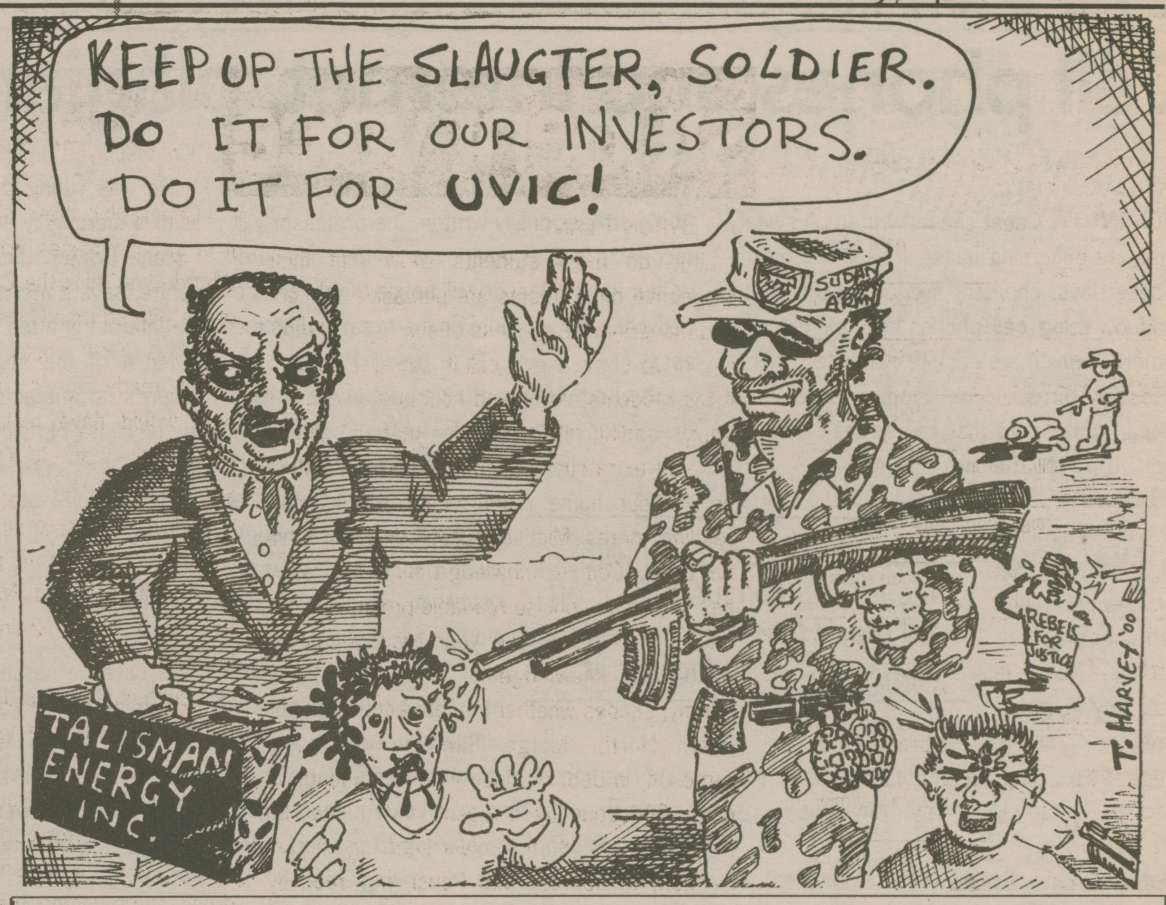
So the NDP cares about parents! Again, not quite. If the NDP cared about parents, we would have universal day care in this province.

But of course we don't have a universal day care program in B.C., and we don't have it in Canada either. It's not the NDP's fault, at least not really. It's the fault of the federal government, who have been promising universal day care for years and failed to deliver repeatedly. Their last failure came with the budget last month, which conveniently skipped over day care while handing a pathetic $2.5 billion to the provinces for four years of medicare and education, arguably important things.

Had there been day care in this province, the support staff would not have been stripped of their right to strike. In the meantime, the best thing the government can do to remedy some of this fiasco is reimburse the parents who had to pay for private day care during the strike.

Maybe that will get them off their asses and on the move towards a universal, accessible day care program for all parents who need it.

Editorial topics are decided upon by staff at editorial meetings on mondays at 4:30 and are written by one or more members. Opinions are not necessarily those of all staff.



letters, letters, letters...

Gas-inhaling apathy

Harking most recently from the prairie oasis and cultural Mecca known worldwide as "Calgary, home of: Howdy Doodie, Giant Red Phallus, Stetsons (especially for Chinese dictators!) and lots of oil." I am quite unaccustomed to proactive displays of citizenship. Civic participation rarely eclipses compulsory mullet and mustache (what could those things possibly be for? Facial virility?) growth, para-sexual animal torture and nationally acclaimed driving.

Although Calgarians admittedly display better personal hygiene and a greater historical violation (we are no longer cowboys) than Victoria and its British heritage motif, they by and large cannot name the mayor, let alone vote.

(Note: When they do vote, Calgarians do so masochistically, ushering in Manning and Klein regimes). So it was to my astonishment that you anti APEC, WTO, gas inhaling, chained to tree West Coast rabble-rousers chose to ignore the polling stations. You best not pull that passive-aggressive shit, because only 10 per cent of you voted! I believe that the non-participation in the UVSS elections stems not from the inability of elected officials to accurately represent the interests of the student body but rather from a distinctly Canadian apathy that seems to arise with the prospect of freedom. Lazy sods.

Alex M. Licker

Martlet loopiness

[This letter has been edited for length]

Editors, Comrades! Stop, you're killing me! *The Martlet's* editorial page has become a truly remarkable thing, reaching new heights of hilarious loopiness with each issue. You crazy kids! So some juveniles around campus dream up the white and heterosexual marches, and what does *the Martlet* do? Instead of reporting it straight and exposing the insanity of the idea, you bit – again! You wrote an editorial so unhinged that I had to wipe the foam off the page after reading it.

I mean, you just made the organizers of the marches very happy. If you'd ignored them, who would have paid attention? But no! Like the Stalinists you so resemble, you had to have a purge. Someone tips your sacred cow, and you publish an embarrassingly badly written editorial laced with profanity and non-sequiturs. But grammar is just so patriarchal, isn't it?

Last week it was the staggering revelation that corporations are driven by profit, the week before that the Soapbox was exhorting us to get down and wrassle in the UVSS mudpen or risk losing democracy in Canada. To those who wonder about the purpose of the UVSS and *the Martlet*, I have this to say in their defence: It keeps them from playing in traffic. Can you imagine the carnage?

Murray Love

UVSS tyranny

Compulsory membership of students' associations hardly sits comfortably with the principle of freedom of association in a democratic society, especially at a university regarded by many as a bastion of intellectual and political freedom. Nobody should be compelled to join any association as a result of "tyranny of the majority."

Clearly demonstrated with the UVSS is that a compulsory association cannot effectively represent student opinion on many topics, yet compulsion means students have no ways of disassociating themselves from the views of their "representatives." It is disgusting that students who may disagree strongly with the positions taken by their association on sensitive political, social and moral issues are forced to contribute to the resources of it.

Why should students who oppose abortion on religious or moral grounds, be forced to fund a women's room and a student's society in general that holds a pro-choice policy?

The UVSS exec obviously sees voluntary membership as a threat, for the thought of the student executive losing their compulsorily extracted income and having it replaced by an income dependent on their actual appeal to students is more than enough for the propaganda and repression machinery to be spun into action. Morgan Stewart should be reminded that Stalin was all for free speech. So was Hitler's propaganda minister, Goebbels. As long as it was a viewpoint that they agreed with.

Stefan Fairweather

Tevas and socks

As we enter the final days of the spring semester and the realization of the warm summer days to come begins to overshadow the intolerable stress of the exam period, we feel that it is our duty as active members of society to address one particularly gruesome side effect the impending season will no doubt cause. Tevas and Socks (TAS). Yes, you all know who you are. You pull your hole-filled, grass-stained, funk-tified (don't freak the funk, yo), mainstream mangy menagerie of hosiery, mid-calf, and don't forget the shorts (Shorts? Socks? Shorts and Socks? That's a letter in itself). THEN you bring out the Tevas that you've probably been wearing all year round anyway (once again, another letter), and add them to this already gross over-indulgence of tree-hugger non-chic. Why, why, why. Our heads hurt at the myriad of almost tolerable footwear alternatives you must have overlooked on your way to this bleak state of affairs. Besides the obviously irrelevant fact that IT LOOKS HIDEOUS, there are countless other practical reasons that should prevent you from taking the road to TAS. For instance, your socks may avoid the gunge. For instance, you can escape a lame-ass farmer's tan. For instance, you will be faced with less laundry at year's end. The list could go on but our letter grows long and we know that your attention spans are short. So in closing, we wish only to say that Tevas and socks aren't really very tasteful for any kind of day.

Kevin Li
I.M. Don

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"flying without feet for 52 years"

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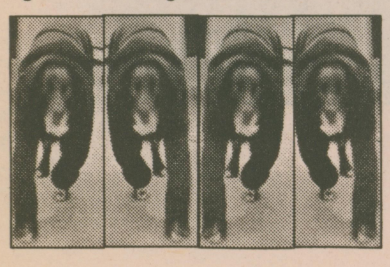


student voice

Sex in *your* department

BY BYRON PLANT

Little do most students know that their respective departments are pervasive shakers and movers in the process of shaking and moving, or as some like to call it: sex. Think about it; as students, we spend hour upon hour diligently reading relevant course material and all sorts of extra supplemental texts, while sitting around our home departments and in their reading rooms. Michel Foucault, in his influential book, *Coition Knowledge and Hip Power*, has shown, in concise readable prose, that our environment, much like your brand of cargo pants and knowledge of Starbucks menuonomy, shapes whether you are either Erkel or Peter North, Marge Simpson or Jenna Jameson, in bed, or since we are students, in futon. Consequently, a recent study funded by the Fraser Institute for Lower Learning, in conjunction, of course, with Pepsi, has recently completed a comprehensive study of thousands of University of Victoria students on the subject of sex, a.k.a. the funky Mcnasty, doing the dirty deed, ordering in Kung Pao, makin' bacon, doing battle in the thunderdome, watching Bucky O'Hare, etc. The results, printed below, were based on overwhelming consensus and, of course, the author's common sense. Where do you fit in?

Political Science: always fixated with ideas of power. These students are known to like only one position, and it's always them on top. They do not like to be overthrown from their comfortable thrones.

Philosophy: philosophers have developed mind games to a fine art. How appealing is that? Also, in saying "I think therefore I am," Descartes forgot the basic premise that, "My parents fucked, therefore I was."

Geography: these students love doing it in strange places with strange people. Why do you think the Cornet building was made with so many hiding places?

History: One would think that people who've made careers out of studying the past would have realized by now that tweed jackets and turtleneck shirts do not get you action.

English: prefer to read the articles in Swank over the artistic pictures. They also don't shut up in bed. Note: they prefer to be dumped via a 12 line rhyming couplet letter.

Sociology: three words: group sex, baby!

Theology: still see value in missionary activity.

Biology: they love Bacon and the experimental method, and for good reason.

Engineering: who else do you think got really drunk and invented the sex swing? The only people I know who would rather push a car in circles for 24 hours than have sex in it.

Economics: "how much is this going to cost?"

Business: "how much am I going to make from this?"

Physical Education: the only department that stresses quantity over quality. They are also known to put towels on the bed first, check their pulse, and insist on wearing t-shirts during "reps."

Theatre: these fine thespians have perfected the art of faking and gesticulating soliloquies. Perfectly suited with voyeuristic companions. They practice truly "safe" sex.

Music: pay thousands of dollars to come to school to toot their own horns. These roommate-conscious pragmatists also crank the Paganini up when they do it at home.

Environmental Studies: these psuedo-Suzukis insist on condoms that are both glow in the dark, banana cream flavoured, and biodegradable.

Women's Studies: have unfortunately realized a new area but old problem in gender history: men and foreplay – it's always been like this.

Computer Science: foreign language is a turn on to most, but one has to really develop a taste for HMTL.

The Fountain Ducks: without doubt, the most sexually active creatures on campus. It's truly no wonder they need to drain the fountain so often.

The UVSS: "You come in sync with us, or you don't come at all."

The Martlet: have demonstrated a favouritist approach to works of the left hand rather than the right. They also do it in the most public manner possible, but still nobody watches.

US imperialism in Colombia

student voice

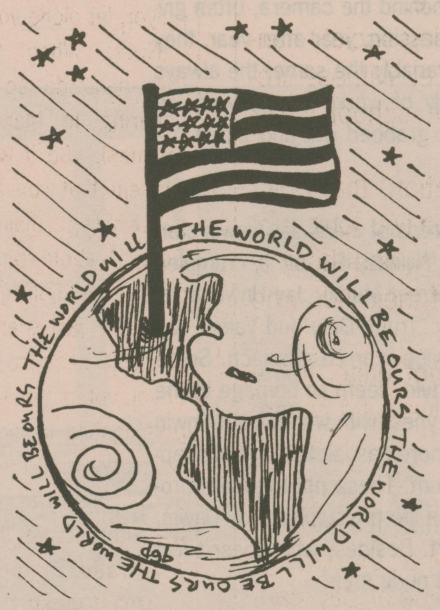
BY LEIGH PHILLIPS

The situation in Colombia is dire. The US has sent Special Forces, former Green Berets, Gulf War Veterans and CIA Agents into the country, along with 200 military officials deployed to rebel-held territory, UH-H1 "Huey" and Blackhawk helicopters for the spraying of defoliants in the countryside and surveillance over the past few years, as they are increasingly concerned with the advances made by left-wing guerrillas.

From 1990-1995, the US spent more than $1 billion dollars on military aid for Colombia, with an additional US$1 billion to come this year alone. Thousands of Colombian soldiers have been trained in the School of the Americas in Fort Benning, Georgia, where soldiers from US client states in Latin America are taught gruesome torture and counter-insurgency techniques. And NATO is currently discussing to what extent they should become militarily involved.

According to Amnesty International, 3000 to 4000 people are killed every year due to political assassinations from Colombian state forces and government-led paramilitaries. This aid is given under the guise of supporting anti-drug operations. The US has invented the new myth of the "narco-guerrilla" in Columbia to replace the old "red menace," long worn thin.

The real drug traffickers are people like the wife of J.C. Hiatt, head of the US Drug Enforcement Agency for Colombia, who was caught using the US embassy post office to send $500,000 worth of cocaine and heroin to New York last year. President Pastrana has admitted that the guerrillas are not involved in drug trafficking.



In Carlos Mario Arenas' letter on this issue, he equated the defensive violence of the FARC and the ELN — the two main left-wing guerrilla groups — to that of the Colombian state, paramilitaries and US forces, and took issue with the opinions expressed at the meeting of the International Socialists on the issue last Thursday.

It is not the guerrillas who are perpetrating most of the violence, but don't take my word for it. Contrary to Mr. Arenas' assertion that I did not know what I was talking about and only visited a few websites for my information, people will find this same information from the Interchurch Committee on Human Rights in Latin America, Amnesty International, respected Australian journalist John Pilger, noted US foreign policy critic Noam Chomsky and the Colombia Solidarity Network.

The guerrillas originally formed to defend peasants from government attack. And so long as parliamentary opposition has been outlawed and violently suppressed for over 40 years, guerrilla struggle has been one of the only, if problematic, forms of opposition available. A 1996 Human Rights Watch report stated "in Colombia, peaceful political participation has proven to be more dangerous than armed struggle." People in Canada and the US must oppose US imperialism in Colombia and the brutality of the Colombian state and paramilitaries who daily target trade unionists, peasants, farmers, students, intellectuals, human rights activists and indigenous groups.

But we must also cut against the lies of the US media and Colombian government about the guerrillas. Just as when socialists have defended the Zapatistas in Chiapas and the Student Strikers at UNAM in Mexico City, we are opposed by some from those areas of the world who say, as we do not come from there, we cannot know what we are talking about.

Mr. Arenas feels this way, but hopefully soon he will realize that, just as there are progressive Colombians who may know more about Canada's oppression of native people than a Canadian born and bred redneck, there are some in Canada who have not bought into the misinformation campaign of the Colombian and US states concerning the civil war, unlike Colombians like Mr. Arenas.

ARTIST AS MODEL: JAY UN

Photos by David Low • Text b

Almost a textbook example of the artist as cliché, the arc of Victoria sculptor Jay Unwin's short life and career seems a savvy marketer's dream come true: matinee-idol good looks, alcoholic excesses, a rumored sexual appetite of adventurous and prodigious proportions, an artist who eschewed the rarefied world of a university art education for training in the dockyards of Esquimalt and the marble pits of Italy, a handful of shows and commissions in Victoria, Edmonton and Montreal, glowing tributes and imminent success, a local boy who does good and makes a name and career and a living for himself through art, and then untimely death at age 38 on a lonely stretch of Alberta highway around Christmas in 1996.

Jay Unwin, Victoria's answer to James Dean, lived hard and died young, leaving behind a pretty corpse, an injured companion, an infant child, a finite number of artworks and, by Victoria standards, a story of operatic proportions, including the mystery of whatever became of the works he left behind.

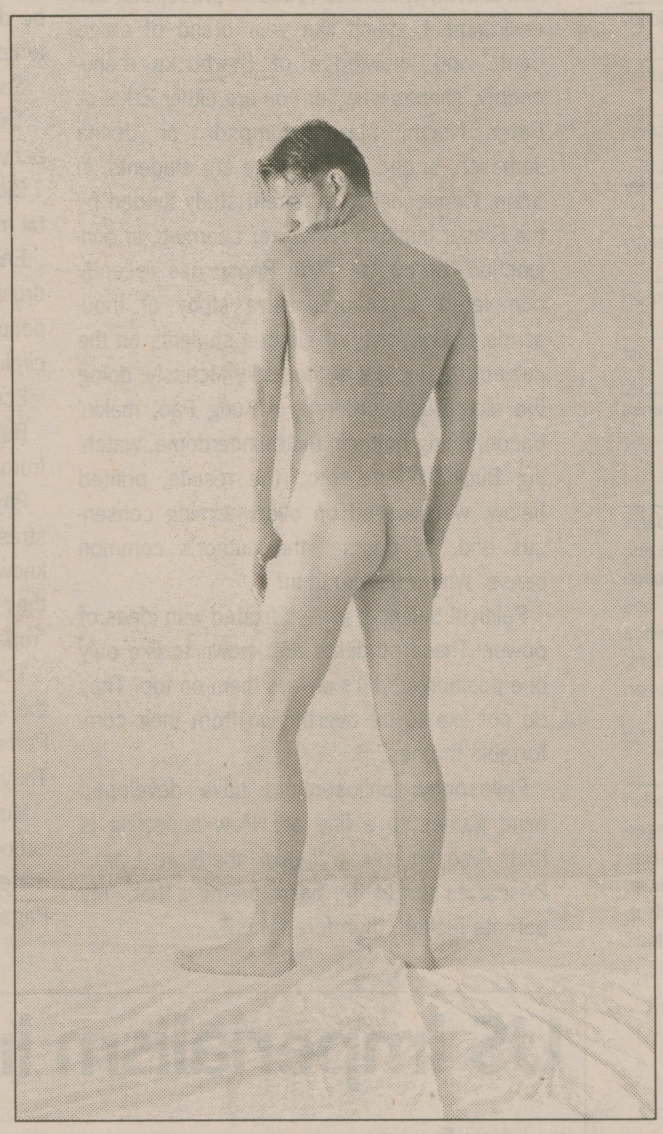
But there were no savvy marketers with big ideas, no death-bed speculators, and Jay Unwin, described at the time of his death as "the most significant artist of his generation" by Nicholas Tuele then-curator of the Victoria Art Gallery, vanished from public consciousness.

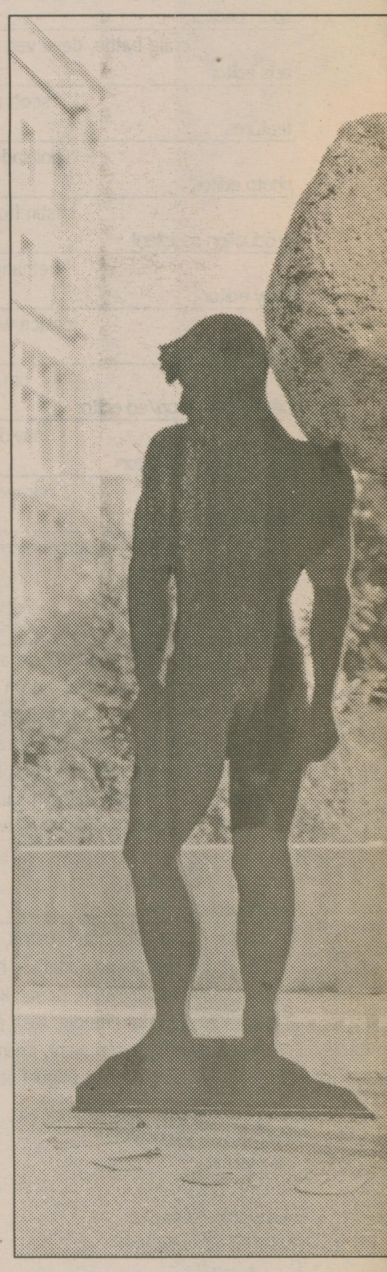
Chances are you are familiar with at least one or two examples of Unwin's work. "Trust and Harmony," a collection of several lead-cast figures pushing up a monolith covered with the words trust and harmony in a variety of languages, stands outside Victoria's police facility on the corner of Quadra and Caledonia. "Truth, Duty and Valor," three silhouettes made of two-inch steel that support a giant stone where their shoulders join, is located at Royal Roads and was erected in 1990 to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of that campus.

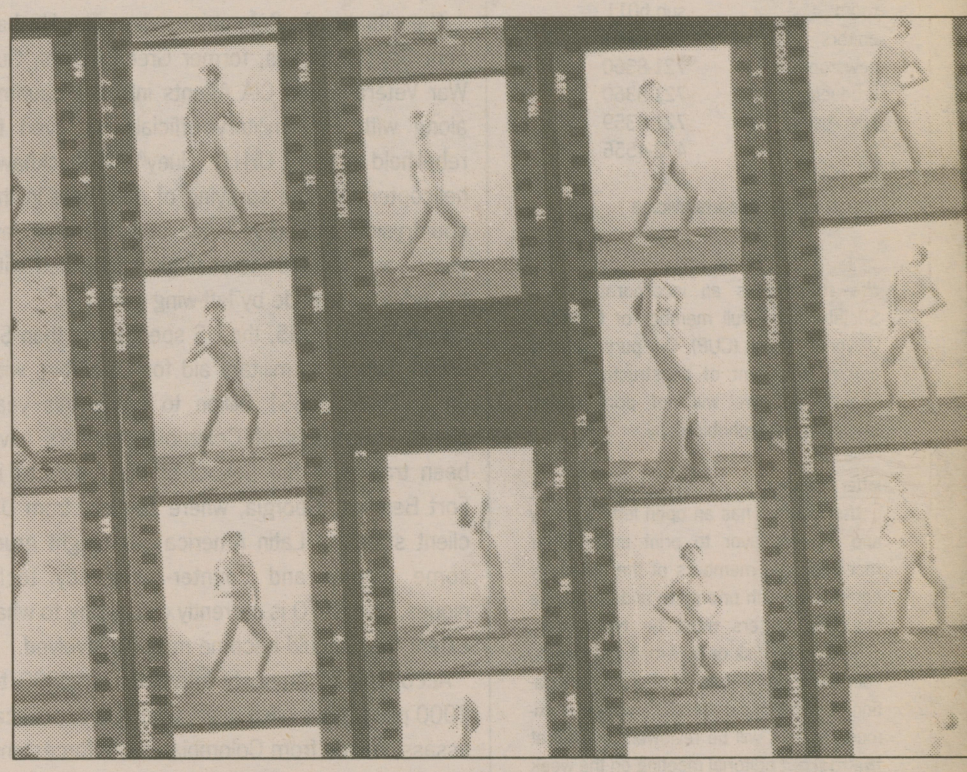
In my mind, however, the art and life of Jay Unwin did not become interesting until I met the man with whom he collaborated in the 1980s. For a period of seven years, Victoria photographer David Low and Victoria sculptor Jay Unwin created what might loosely be called a workbook / notebook / ideabook / sourcebook / scrapbook, although what they created was not really a book at all, but a collection of photographic portraits, self-portraits, and informal pictures of Unwin. Many of the ideas Unwin would later use in his work he first worked out photographically with Low, behind the camera, often giving direction and advice. Session after session, year after year, they staged and took photos, the subject invariably the same: the always nude body of Jay Unwin. It is this body of work, the body of Jay Unwin, his life when almost alone, that grabbed me and made me interested.

And what photographs there are, hundreds of them: Jay Unwin staring longingly into a mirror; Jay Unwin Nijinksy-like on a crumpled sheet; Jay Unwin working in his Broad Street studio; Jay Unwin holding the pose he would ultimately use for "Truth, Duty and Valor," Jay Unwin and the poignant drama of his twice-scarred stomach. Some of the photographs, cold and formal in style, seem an homage to the homoerotic portraiture of George Platt Lynes, with whom both Unwin and Low were familiar, while others are more casual, the sort of snapshots you'd see in any family photo album. These photographs provide a behind the scenes glimpse into the life of sculpture Jay Unwin, a chance to see the man behind the art. Besides, who doesn't like looking at photographs of attractive and nude men?

"Despite his high profile," says Low, "Unwin remains an enigma. I hope the photographs will shed some light on his personality or at least provide an insight into how he worked and how he wanted himself to be represented." As such, Low has recently exhibited several photos of Jay Unwin at the Erotic Art Show at the Community Arts Council Gallery in downtown Victoria. Although Low's photos were clearly never created as art or with an expectation of display, Low's long term plans are to mount a larger exhibit of the photos with the help of a Canada Council Explorations Grant. Whether this will spark a renewed interest in the art of Jay Unwin, "the most significant artist of his generation" only time will tell. Until then, we will have to content ourselves with these photos and the glimpse they give us of an artist at work, an artist at rest, an artist at play.







Above: Studies for Jay Unwin's 'Truth, Duty, sculpture (seen top right), erected in 1991 a Roads. (1989)

WIN

V.H. Vachon

Jay Unwin studies himself in a mirror. Portrait taken in David Low's studio. (1990)

Left: The back side of Jay Unwin's 'Trust and Harmony' sculpture, erected in 1996 outside the Victoria Police Station.

Above: Jay Unwin (left) and David Low in Unwin's Broad St. studio. (1990)

Nothing common about these albums

Common
Like Water For Chocolate
MCA Records

BY SCOTT ROBERTS

If you're tired of hearing yet another Premier (Gang Starr DJ/producer) beat on "the new single from..." then don't overlook Common's new album. Although the the first track to hit the shelves is "the radio-friendly bi-product of an outside producer/ringer"** (Primo), that's where Premier's contribution ends.

In fact, that's where the album takes a u-turn. The main producers on this album are the newly formed Soul Quarians, featuring James Poyser, ?uest Love from The Roots and D'Angelo.

Then, there's Common himself. He's been gettin' props ever since '92 when he dropped his first album under the Common Sense moniker, *Can I Borrow A Dollar*, on Relativity Records. Since then he's worked with Pharoah Monch, The Roots, De la Soul, Slick Rick, and, well, we don't need to finish this list, it's done.

With his latest release, "Like Water For Chocolate," Common has reached a new level. It's the outcome of the best producers, MCs, and drummers in the hiphop world coming together to create some of the most soulful music that I've ever heard. Even if you don't like hiphop, check out "The Light" and "Funky For You." This is the new sound of hiphop. This shit is uncommon, and I guess that's the point.

**(my mom always said: "give credit where credit is due." That one's all Randy Gelling, but it fits well)

Limblifter
Bellaclava
Universal

BY DIXON MCGOWAN

This album rocks the whole way through. Bellaclava is full of melodic pop, from the first track "Count to 9" to the single "Ariel vs. Lotus." Kurt Dahle plays the drums, Ryan Dahle (formerly of Age of Electric) sings and Todd Fancey plays the bass. Holly McNarland and Doug Elliot make guest appearances on the album too. Elliot, who plays the bass for the Odds, plays the standup bass in "Hostess" and "Come on down," while McNarland sings back-up in "Wake up to the sun."

Bellaclava is a great album to air drum or ski to.

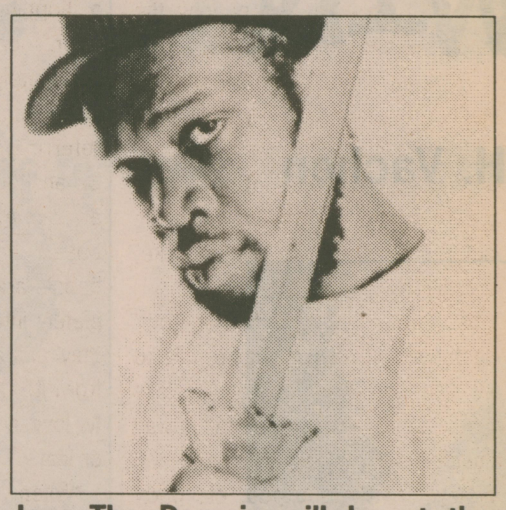
The cd booklet is super-great to look at as well. Kurt took most of the pictures in the booklet. Ryan penned all of the songs and they sound like old Age of Electric songs. Bellaclava is also reminiscent of the band Change of Heart because of the fast-paced guitar. The lyrics are quite interesting and simple. They are getting a lot of airplay on rock radio stations, especially the single "Ariel vs. Lotus." Recently Limblifter had a really good interview with Chris Nelson on Muchwest.

On the cover of the cd is a picture of a woman with a black balaclava, but the band talked about what was on the inside cover more: motorbikes. Motorbikes also appear in their videos. This album gets 10 air drums out of 10.

Just wanted to take a little time and space to thank all the writers who spent so much time keeping this section together this year. You all rocked. And before I get all teary eyed an' shit, ya'll better be back next year, cause we still get free CDs and books and tickets and movies. And we need someone to write about them. Next issue is in May, and I've heard about some good shows coming up soon!
scott

Jeru to do Damaj at the Connection soon

BY DAVE ISRAELIEVITCH



Jeru The Damaja will be at the Limit on April 13th.
photo provided

When asked if there is an era of hip-hop that could be deemed golden, most new school heads would tell you "the nine-two," a time when the music was about fun, not money, and one of the leaders of this period was the Gangstarr Foundation. It was this year, on their Daily Operation album (their best release ever), that an MC by the name of Jeru the Damaja was introduced. His premiere (no pun intended) sparked a style of street consciousness that very few east-coasters at the time had dabbled in.

In '93, his debut album, *The Sun Rises in the East* became an instant classic, with legendary tracks "Come Clean," "Can't Stop the Prophet" and a host of others. He was ushered in amongst a slew of awesome products, including OC's first album, Wu-Tang's first album, Masta Ace's second album, Del's second album and the Alkaholiks' first album, but Jeru's still stood out them, and the album remains a critical turning point in the growth of hiphop music and culture.

Now seven years, two albums, numerous soundtracks and compilations, as well as half a million biters, later, Jeru has broken free from the reins of Guru and Primo (the two founding members of Gang Starr), and is reemerging as a true solo artist. He's handling his own production and it's surprisingly tight (this is coming from someone who hated *Wrath of the Math*, his second release).

Next week at the Connection (the best hiphop night in town), Jeru is going to be rockin' it, and as if that's not enough, the Swollen Members are coming all the way from Vancouver to open for him, and DJs Verse and Squantos are gonna be spinnin' and cuttin' shit up all night. If y'all don't know, it's time to find out.

The show takes place Tuesday, April 11 at the Limit (1318 Broad St.) Advance tickets are $15 at Complex, Lyle's, and HMV, and doors open at 9 p.m.

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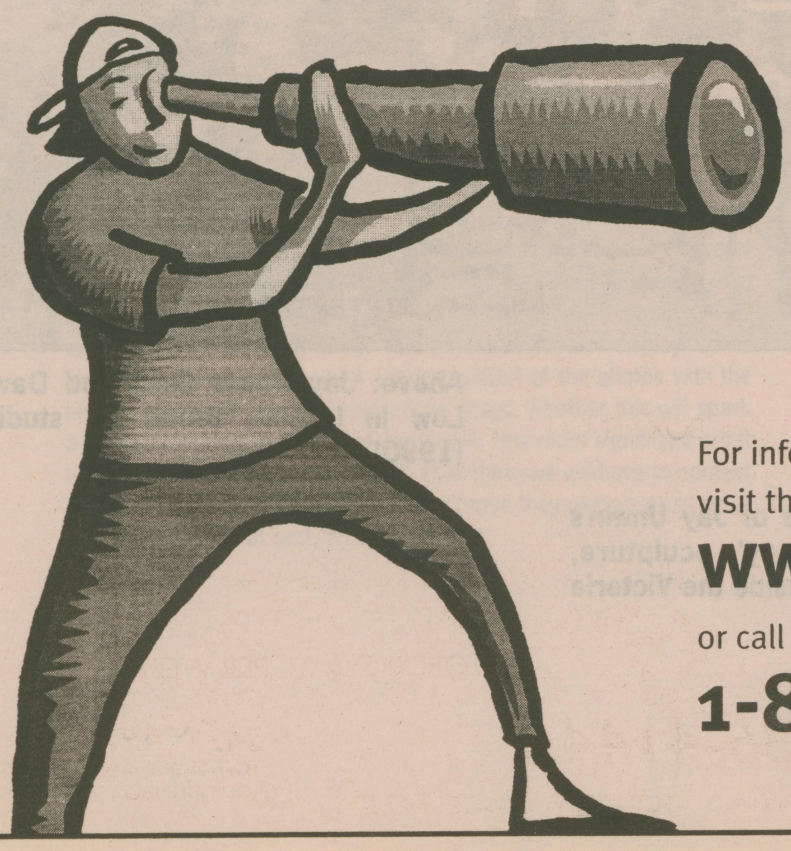

For information on programs,
visit the Youth Options BC web site:
www.youth.gov.bc.ca
or call a Youth Options BC representative toll free:
1-877-BC-YOUTH

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HonourableGraemeBowbrick,
Minister Responsible for Youth

Urban Lounge keeps it local

BY SCOTT ROBERTS

It's nearing the end of the semester and most of us are nearing the bottom of our bank accounts.

We're all caught in the same cycle that happens during every finals period. You write a brutal exam, then you have to go celebrate (not necessarily the fact that you did well, but the fact that it's over). But you're broke, or really near it.

You may even be a fan of good electronic music, but not be able to afford to go out to hear it. And let's face it, being a pop music fan is way cheaper, both in terms of time and money. So what's a poor old party kid to do?

Liam Lux has brought us an answer. He's now running the Urban Lounge Series: Mind, Body and Soul at Hugo's. No cover, cheap drinks, and cheap food. Seems like the perfect formula for student-friendly club life. After a degrading week of finals, or during pre-finals blues, there comes a time when no one can resist the superficialities of a club atmosphere. And if you like the music, then there's no need to mention the shallow aspects of it.

Club culture is one of the only arenas to bring new music to the masses (asides, of course, from radio, but that argument can be made later) as well as giving DJs a place to play, experiment, and test new ideas on the people on the floor. (One thing to consider: even rock bands use the same formula, which is why, what was once the biggest rock venue in B.C., [the Town Pump] is now the biggest electronic venue [Sonar].) Clubs allow anybody to hear as much music as they want and take from it what they will. So when it's cheap, it provides an even better reason to check it out.

Plus when you get great local DJs playing what they want to play, rather than playing a Friday or Saturday night all-house-music set – not that there's anything wrong with that – so you get to hear good funk, rare groove, soul, house, and all that comes about from mixing those genres.

"I like not having the expectation of a hopping dance floor, or of a completely lounge vibe," Lux says referring to the Urban Lounge. "In a more dance-based format, if people aren't completely into it then they are alienated from it. They have to love it, hate it, or leave."

"When the DJ has no expectation from the crowd," he says "...you wind up with a more social setting, "where you can get into it as deep as you want but still feel comfortable." This is what midweek nights are generally about, besides, most music fans will tell you that the best nights are on weekdays.

The Urban Lounge series featuring DJ Salamander (above), Liam Lux, DJ Bellyfish, and many others.

photo by Chris Taylor

Last time I checked out the Urban Lounge it was for Rare Groove and Trip Hop For Your Soul, with Lux and DJ Bellyfish playing to a half-full room. Now I have to confess, I'm a bit of a fan of Bellyfish. He doesn't get a lot of Saturday night shows on his own, without Velvet, but the guy has a collection of records so big and so diverse that he never ceases to force me to leave smiling.

I've seen him play classic jazz, deep house, funk, hiphop, soul and rare groove at lounge parties and with Velvet. Every time that I leave a Bellyfish show it's always after having heard something that I've never heard before and then can't get out my head for a week. Last time it was a bass guitar line from an instrumental version of an unnamed funk song. The first time was "I did it my way" at a lounge party. The boy really knows how to play for a crowd.

Other regular guests include DJ Salamander from the Stir Fry crew with Bellyfish on Mondays at Acid jazz For Your Mind, different local house DJs with Liam Lux on Tuesday at House Music For Your Body (aka Sweetbeats), and every Wednesday features Lux and Bellyfish's Rare Groove and Trip Hop For Your Soul.

The series is entirely run – with the exception of the Rendille Kids benefit – by the locals.

"Victoria has an uncanny number of extraordinary local DJs who play high-caliber quality music," said Lux. "They are the ones who built the scene, who made it possible to bring in headliners in the first place, and by giving people places to hear it through parties, raves, and club nights."

Joint Chiefs to thrash at Vertigo after finals

BY ANN BEHENNAH

There is a common erroneous perception that heavy metal rockers with long hair are a thing of the past. This is absolutely false, and is probably a stupid myth perpetuated by those afraid of a little hard rock. In fact, more talented local thrash bands exist than ever before and one of them, The Joint Chiefs, will be playing at Vertigo on Saturday, April 29.

The Joint Chiefs are three friends spawned from the ruggedly industrial lifestyle of Campbell River. Isolated by the pristine wilderness of their mill town, and influenced by such bands as Metallica, Slayer and Anthrax, they formed The Joint Chiefs over a year ago after being a cover/party band. The band consists of Denton Booth (T-Tox) on guitar/vocals, Arlo Coole (Roach) on bass/vocals and Craig Wigby (Wigz) as percussion.

The Joint Chiefs describe their music as "energized thrash metal for a new millennium." Melding speed, melody and groove together, they create a dynamically fluid sound. The band's lyrics are often politically motivated, addressing such issues as prohibition, violence, global power and greed, and the intimidating face of modern warfare. They hope to instill a message of empowerment to encourage our generation to challenge a society that is guilty of neglecting its youth.

The direction The Joint Chief's music is following is more of the old school tradition of metal. While heavier bands such as Korn, Limp Bizkit, Rod Zombie and Kid Rock seem to be currently receiving most of the media attention, there is no disputing the fact that The Joint Chiefs' brand of rock maintains a loyal following. To quote Pantera fan, Luis Cook, "there may be two distinct eras of heavy music, but many people listen to both."

The Joint Chiefs are amazing live. Since their goal when performing is to "drink and thrash so hard that the audience feels out of place remaining in their seat," their gigs are all about extreme alcohol consumption and good times. They maintain their energy by usually allowing a day in between gigs to allow sufficient recovery time.

Fueled by the rush of performing, The Joint Chiefs are embarking on organizing their fifth Canada Day Pit Party. This is an annual Campbell River event in which a dozen or more bands entertain a chaotic crowd by performing outdoors on a temporary stage. It is an all-night endurance test, enhanced by the Northern Hemp Co. selling gourmet camping foods, vegan cuisine and hemp products. (It seems the local authorities haven't quite figured out who is responsible for this crazy orgy of rock but we aren't going to tell them.)

The Joint Chiefs have toured Vancouver Island extensively and have performed alongside a variety of recording artists, including rockers Four Bone Chain, Dizzy and Noise Therapy, rappers P.U.C.K., punks The Dayglo Abortions and thrashers Volatile, and the band is now ready to take its aggressive performing energy to the mainland. Having just completed his degree in engineering, vocalist Denton Booth will now devote his talents and time to his band.

The band is currently working on a follow-up to their last album, "Alcoholics Unanimous – Liquor Blind" and intend to produce some music videos soon. More information can be found at their website, www.listen.to/Joint-Chiefs. Meanwhile, their Vertigo gig is the ideal way to end the term on Saturday, April 29 as The Joint Chiefs will make you forget you ever wrote exams.

Rumpus Room brings art and fashion to Bravo

photo provided by Steele Eye Photography

BY SCOTT ROBERTS

Before I spend $10 on anything, I like to be damn sure it will be worthwhile.

A friend called two months ago and said, "you better get your tickets now... we can't get you promos" and that, "even the producer's mom had to buy her own ticket."

I didn't buy the ticket.

Then the artistic director called and said, "It's already sold out but I have exactly one promo ticket, and it's for my 'guest.' If you'd like, I can bring you."

That's when I got really happy.

Amy Cameron decided that there weren't enough opportunities for young artists in Victoria to showcase their work. "This town is bursting with talent. There just isn't enough accessibility, both for the artist and for the public. If people could only see what amazing artists are so close to home."

People will soon get to check out more of what's going on around this city. Cameron has put together a show called Rumpus Room. It will feature 14 local artists and their painting, photography, fashion design and video displays; as well as an acrobat.

That's a tall bill of events, but it's set in the perfect location: Bravo Restaurant. If you haven't been in then don't question the idea of having such a show in a restaurant. When the room was re-built in 1996, it was made for something just like this. Which is exactly what Cameron saw when she walked in the door.

"I was in there having martinis with a friend and the only thing I knew (about the show) was that I wanted to do it somewhere different, somwhere that hasn't been done before. The atmosphere in Bravo is incredibly beautiful. It's got the perfect mix of elegance and funky style."

"(it's) what makes fashion such an interesting social phenomenon"

Cameron's perspective on fashion is one that many of the style-wise will appreciate. "I think that fashion is definately a bottom-up process. It starts at the street and moves quickly up to the design houses, then it is filtered back to the mainstream public by places like Roots and Club Monaco."

She doesn't discount the fact that designers do have many ideas that originate in their own heads. "A lot of the time, what you see so many people wearing comes entirely from the mind of just one person, that's what makes fashion such an interesting social phenomenon."

Cameron will have just three pieces in the show that she originally created out of the frustrations from not having her own work shown. "I have just been way too busy putting Rumpus Room together, to get enough of my own pieces ready. My basic idea [for my work] was to reflect photography in clothing and at the same time have the clothes reflect the issues women face through objectification."

Rumpus Room is about a lot more than art and fashion – all the proceeds from it go directly to the Victoria Youth Clinic in James Bay. This clinic is essentially an alternative walk-in clinic for the youth of Victoria. Its clientele often includes street kids and offers free medical services to youth who don't have a care card.

"The Youth Clinic is basically a way for young people, aged 12-24, to get health care in a more accessable way," said Kim Daly, a registered nurse and co-ordinator for the Youth Clinic. "The youth in this province are a pretty underserviced group. We regularly get people coming in here who aren't covered by Medicare, who have reached the age of majority, are no longer covered by their parents' Medicare, and don't really know how to go about getting coverage reinstated. We also help a lot of people who can't afford the basic prescriptions they need in order to get well."

Although the event is still a week away, Cameron is already looking into the future. "I hope that this will be an introductory project. I think that when people see how much the artists of this city have to offer, it should open up both new opportunities and a greater awareness of what actually goes on in the arts community in Victoria."

There will be a few tickets being sold at the door on April 13. Call the Rumpus Room Info line for details 360-8915 and get there early.

Weekend Comedy is more than a farce

BY COLIN PLANT

Forgive me reader, for I have sinned. I want to make a confession. I have never seen Colin Skinner act before. I have no good excuse, as I have lived here for over ten years. It's just that I've never been a huge fan of English farces.

Well, I am now happy to report that I have been converted.

Welcome to *Weekend Comedy*, written by American husband and wife writing duo Jeanne and Sam Bobrick. Originally penned as a dinner theatre play, the audience is given a simple, yet comical view into the nature of marital maturation. The play is funny – remember, it is a farce.

In this Capital Comedy production a travel agency has accidentally double-booked a mountain cabin for two couples, one a long-married pair set in their ways, the other carefree young lovers still uncommitted to one another. Their decision to share the cabin in spite of the mix-up leads to some ridiculous situations, but, in the end, all are changed by their unplanned encounter.

What makes this production noteworthy is its ability to convince the audience to spend a few minutes thinking about the nature of love and marriage between the guffaws. I cannot say for certain when in this American-but-adapted-to-be-Canadian play we start to see the characters as human beings, but it happens.

Exploring why aging couples lose their zest for romance may not sound funny, but it is. In fact, it is farcical. The prudish wit of Frank Jackson, deftly played by Skinner, is particularly humourous. Last Thursday night's audience was quite tentative to start, but by the second act, Skinner and company was able to draw out consistent laughter.

The older couple – played by Skinner and Kate Wilkinson – have a lovely onstage chemistry, and are quite believable as the silver anniversary couple. The mimed beginning to the play is particularly humourous as we watch the oafish Frank bring in case after case of beer, while his wife Peggy brings in everything else.

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for the younger couple. Veteran local actor Morgan McLeod does nothing new in this production, while his onstage girlfriend Kelli Taaffe's stage debut is as memorable as Y2K. Both seem too immature in this production, and their performances only serve to illuminate the charming chemistry between the elder couple. Simply put, their relationship is about as wooden as the McPherson Playhouse floor.

Skinner's set design as well as Adam Wilkinson's lighting design nicely capture the flavour of the upscale cabin. Wilkinson's sound design is another nice addition. His choices are particularly appropriate in linking the scenes.

Clocking in at under two hours, *Weekend Comedy* is a pleasant way to spend an evening with your spouse. Who said plays about aging had to be boring?

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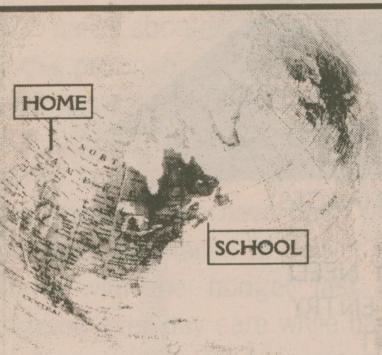

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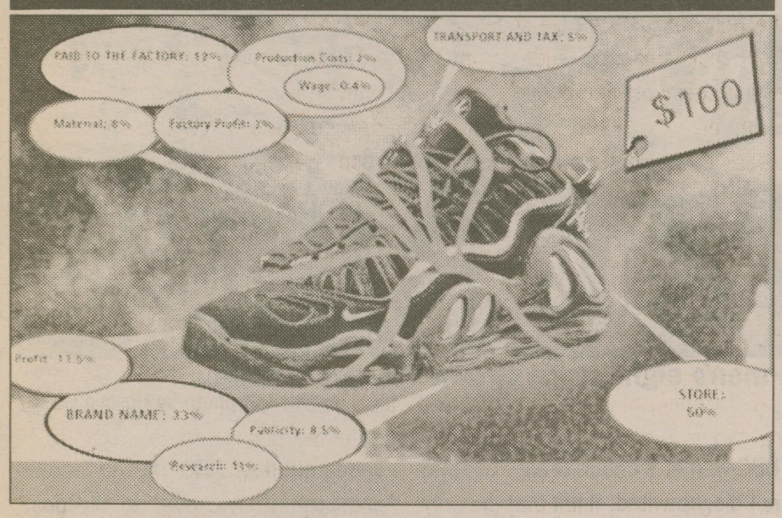
WIN *the Martlet* and Degree One Productions have two pairs of tickets to give away to you, our loyal readers. What for, you ask? Well Jeru The Damaja is coming to town. Coming to the only venue that consistently puts on live hiphop for the people of Victoria, the Limit. Coming for one night only, Tuesday, April 11. We've also got three copies of Supergrass' new self-titled cd. Lots of good stuff for the last issue. Come down to SUB B011 to pick it up. Be quick, before it's gone.

Sports Call



The price make-up of a US $100 sport shoe made in Indonesia.
graphic provided

BY MEESHA CHAN

What do you do if you want to be an ethical or responsible jock? What if you want to run, play tennis or basketball, but you can't find a shoe made in North America? What if you don't want to support mega shoe corporations? Recently, I went out to discover where most shoes in the mega stores are made. I wasn't too surprised by my findings.

Nike, Adidas, Reebok, New Balance, Brookes, Fila, Avia, Saucony, Korea, Indonesia, Vietnam, China, Philippines, Thailand, Taiwan, Bangladesh...

Is it that many people don't question where their shoes come from, just as long as they complete with gadgets and whistles? Why else would shoe corporations produce so many pairs of shoes. Choice? I don't think so.

In 1997 Nike Corp. produced 90 million pairs of shoes. The estimated population of the Earth was approximately 5.5 billion. Even if every person on Earth could afford the (minimum) $125 for a pair, that would mean one pair per 61 people. And that's just Nike Corp.

Revenue for 1997 was over 9.2 billion.lIn Korea, after Nike Corp. took over production, daily quotas went from 200 pairs of shoes per day to 300. All work is done for pennies an hour.

Nike CEO Philip Knight makes a salary of $864,583 per year (an average of $2,368.72 per day). A Nike contract worker makes $1.50 per day in Vietnam and $2.60 per day in Indonesia.

At the same time an employee of Mega Store Sneaker World is paid minimum wage, $7.15 an hour. Strip malls of choice, store after mega, all carry large quantities of shoe robots running from box to box with headsets ajingle.

Michael Jordan is paid $20 million a year for endorsing Nike. This is money well spent to train young minds to believe spending $150 US for a pair of Air Max is common practice.

In a rural area of West Java, the female factory workers are referred to as "Ghosts who worked in Satan's factory." They leave their village at 4:00 a.m. and don't return until after 8:00 p.m.

In 1996 Knight also gave himself a bonus of $787,500. That year, Nike spent $678 million for marketing and promotion.

In 1994 Nike released the following statement: "As a player in Indonesia's economy, Nike is part of a plan that has succeeded in increasing per capita income tenfold since 1970 while decreasing those living in poverty from 60 per cent to 15 per cent in the same period... by supporting light manufacturing Nike contributes to the increase of workers skills, wages and capabilities."

Nike increases skills for supervisors by "teaching" them (men) to meet quotas by running to the washroom, run to the lunch room, to run everywhere, even when they aren't working.

Just do it.

An American publisher prints a six-grade math text book that includes brand names in it's equations. The book is currently used in at least 16 US states, building brand loyalty for Nike and Disney, among others. Many school boards, such as the California State education department, give the book a hearty thumbs-up, finding it successful because kids recognize and identify with the brands.

Indonesia is one of Nike's largest producers, churning out approximately 7 million pairs a month.

Nike is not the only evil shoe corporation. There are factories cranking out different colours and shapes. More choices for the consumer.

Somewhere there are piles and piles of shoes. Choices for all of those jocks out there.

What can you do about it? I want to jog. To date I haven't found a pair of shoes I think could be safe. I have heard about a few companies that seem ethical, but my research is not complete.

E-mail Nike, Adidas, Michael Jordan. It may seem pointless, but one letter equals 50 people's opinion. Let corporations and celebrities know their practices are not okay. Contact organisations like the Clean Clothes Campaign or the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees to find out what you're wearing.

Perhaps if you see someone jogging on the chip trails in bare feet in the near future, you'll know the battle was far too big.

Rugby Vikes kick Capilano

BY JONATHON HUNGERFORD

Will Newman chipped the Vikes to a 22-7 victory over the Capilano Rugby Club last Saturday in the senior men's rugby team's first division I play-off game.

Newman, a third-year sports psychology major, sparked life into a sleepy start dominated by defensive kicking initiated by the Capilano Club. Ten minutes into the game, however, he awoke the fans with individual effort showing similarities to Brazilian soccer-star Reynaldo.

Newman streaked down the right wing, chipped the ball towards the end-zone and smoothly recovered it for a try, establishing a 5-0 lead.

Vikes captain Mark Lawson secured the half by driving through a flurry of Capilano jerseys and diving into the end zone after receiving an unselfish pass from Nick Brown. The conversion gave the Vikes a 12-0 lead at the half.

Vikes rugby action at Wallace Field.
Martlet photo by Carmel Ecker

A talented and healthy team, the Vikes stand in good shape to tackle the division 1 championship, which would hoist the team into the premier division for next season.

Newman made a mockery of the Capilano defense by repeating the exact same chip he did in the first half, and extended the Vikes lead to 19. The Capilano squad, eager to come back, pressed hard – putting up a good fight in the dying minutes. Tight defense, and big hits from Harold Williams on former Vike Akio Tyler and Mark Lawson on anything in a blue jersey, held the mainlanders to a measly seven points that squeaked in from a blocked kick and try and conversion.

With the first playoff win under their belts, the Vikes need to start focusing for their game against Langley.

Captain Mark "law school" Lawson is happy with the way the season is going, and stresses the importance of maintaining their momentum.

"We are all pretty confident," Lawson said. "The big thing now is not to get complacent."

A talented and healthy team, the Vikes stand in good shape to tackle the division I championship. This would hoist the team into the premier division starting next season.

"The goal now is winning the championship, and getting ourselves into the Premier league."

The Norsemen, UVic's second squad weren't so successful against the University of Berkley's touring team. The Norsemen lost to a more experienced Berkley rugby team, and injuries to crucial players including Nick Hooge, who left with an eye injury in the first half, forced the Norsemen to bring up some recruits from the Jutes.

"We played a pretty good game," said Norsemen prop Phil Webb. "But when Berkley put in some of their first-team players, our young guys just didn't have the experience."

The Norsemen play Capilano in North Vancouver this weekend, and hope to stick it to them Vike-style.

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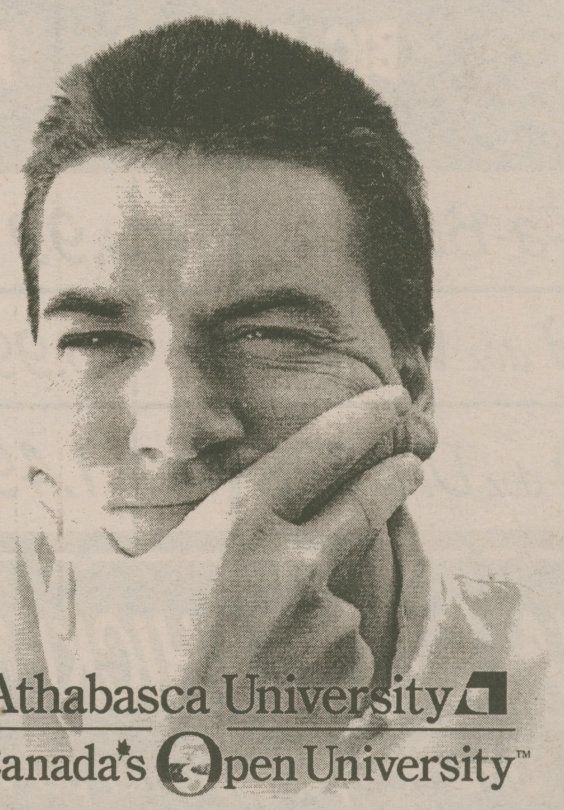

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UVic rowing sweeps UBC again at Brown Cup

BY HOLLAND GIDNEY

It's 10:23 a.m. and a crowd of about 30 people is gathered on Victoria's Johnson Street Bridge. Ten minutes later a cheer goes up as someone with binoculars spots two rowing shells passing under the Bay Street bridge a kilometre away. As the boats get closer, the cheering gets louder as people encourage their favourite crews.

Oxford and Cambridge have their annual rowing race and Harvard and Yale have theirs; the University of Victoria and the University of British Columbia's is Brown Cup.

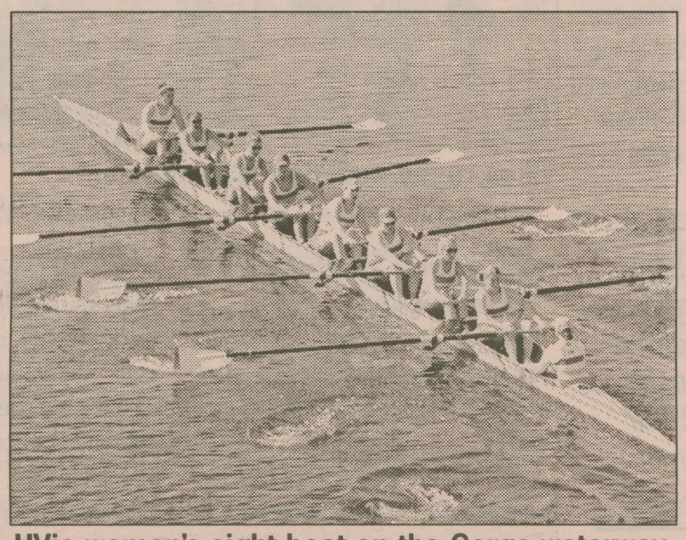
Held at the end of the spring rowing season, the race pits the top men's and women's eights from both schools against each other in a head-to-head race over several kilometres.

This year's Brown Cup, held April 2 on the Gorge Waterway in Victoria, with crews racing from Tillicum Narrows to the Inner Harbour, marked the ninth time the men have raced-off and the eighth time for the women.

UVic has never lost a Brown Cup race but this year it looked like UBC might present a challenge to their traditional rivals.

At the Elk Lake Spring Regatta, held at the beginning of March, the UBC men's eight was ahead of UVic when one of its rowers lost his seat about a third of the way through the race. This allowed UVic an opportunity to surge ahead and they ended up winning the race. As for the women's race, the UVic and UBC crews hadn't raced against each other in eights since the fall and there was some speculation that UBC might be fast.

But in the end, the results were the same as they are every year: UVic easily won both the men's and women's races though both UBC crews were closer than last year. In the women's race, this may have been due to major changes to the boating order of the UVic boat the week before Brown Cup.



UVic women's eight boat on the Gorge waterway.
Martlet photo by Holland Gidney

"It was quite an overhaul," said Rick Crawley, coach of the UVic women's crew, of the changes he made to his boat. "I decided to try the shake-up approach."

Crawley decided to go with a completely new boating order after he saw a breakdown in the eight that faced Washington State University (WSU is currently ranked 21st in the NCAA) in a regatta in Bellingham two weekends ago. UVic had a boat-length lead over WSU at the two hundred-metre mark but fell apart and lost the race. The UVic coach dropped three rowers from the boat and moved everyone around so that only the coxswain and seven-seat stayed in the same place for Brown Cup.

"If the veterans aren't doing the job, then you need to bring in a youth movement," he said, commenting on the two freshman rowers, Emily King and Erin Reardon, who made the cut for the Brown Cup boat. King, in her first year of rowing for UVic, had been stroking the freshmen eight before finding herself in stroke seat of the Brown Cup eight. Understandably, she was a little nervous before the race, but she need not have worried because, as fourth-year rower Karen Clark commented afterwards, "she was awesome!"

The UVic women claimed their eighth straight Brown Cup with a time of 11:17, while UBC finished a good 19 seconds back in 11:36.

Though his crew finished second, UBC women's coach Craig Pond was not disappointed. "I felt that the crew performed very well.

UVic men's eight at the Brown Cup presentation.
Martlet photo by Holland Gidney

In the final weeks leading up to the race the crew made some major improvements and we feel that we had the best race we possibly could at this time," he said. "Even though the results did not prove us number one we feel we won the race within ourself."

As for the men's race, most spectators didn't see the collision that happened in the first kilometre of the race. As UBC was moving through UVic, the two crews clashed blades and UBC's stroke seat lost control of his oar, which caused UBC to lose approximately three lengths.

I'd like to see UVic and UBC finishing two to three seconds apart.

"I'm not sure who was in the wrong and who was in the right," said UBC men's coach Mike Pearce who witnessed the collision from on the water. "But there's no way there should have been a collision." He said that the officials watched the two boats get closer together but did not issue a warning to either crew to give way. "They sat there and watched the collision happen, then told the crews to move apart."

Though he was onshore and didn't see the collision happen, after talking with the officials, UVic men's coach Howie Campbell said that it appeared that UBC moved across and pushed UVic over to the point where coxswain Pat McFarlane couldn't move over any further without hitting the shore. "The officials called it a navigational mistake," Campbell said. "Unfortunately you can't afford to make any mistakes in a race of this kind."

Because the collision happened early on in the race, it may not have affected UVic's winning the race but the crews probably would have finished a lot closer together.

While Pearce felt his crew might have had a chance at beating UVic, Campbell didn't think that the collision had much of an effect on the final outcome of the race. "It was early days, we'd already started to move back on them," he said. "But it's unfortunate that we can't call it a clear victory."

UVic finished in a time of 10:20, while UBC crossed the line in 10:32.2, both well off the course record, which is under the 10-minute mark.

While nothing unexpected happened at this year's Brown Cup, next year's race could prove interesting, something Rick Crawley is looking forward to. "I'd like to see UVic and UBC finishing two to three seconds apart," he said. With two young and rather inexperienced crews racing for UBC this year, this could very well happen next year as the athletes from the university continue to improve.

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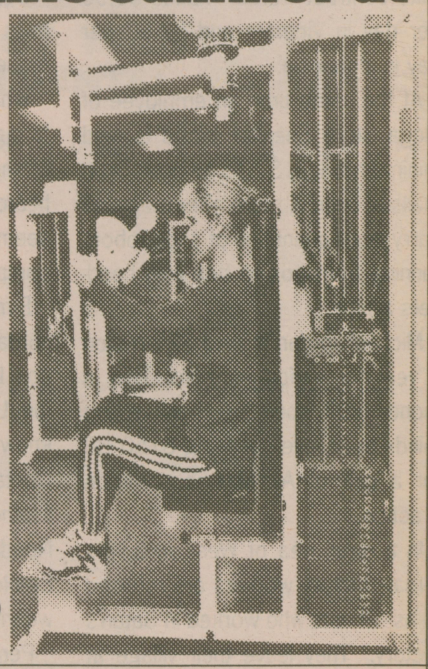
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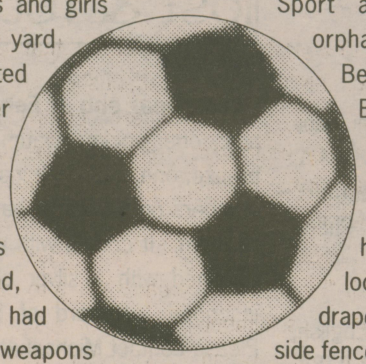
The true meaning of sport in Belize

BY MARK FRAYNE

BELIZE-GUATEMALA BORDER (CUP) – Minutes before recess a goat was leisurely nibbling grass on what was soon to become centre field.

As the teacher rang the school bell, signalling the start of the mid-morning break, the goat trotted away and 50 boys and girls charged out to the yard to start their spirited games of soccer and baseball.



The children seemed unaware that just a few steps down the road, Belizean troops had their automatic weapons pointed down the hill towards the Belize-Guatemalan border, on constant alert.

This region, although primarily exempt from the political upheaval that has decimated much of Central America in recent decades, has had its share of concerns, including an ongoing border dispute and the economic struggle of everyday life.

Rural families in Belize have an approximate income of $250 a year.

In an age of fibre optics and telecommunications, most rural Central Americans do not have electricity, running water or even adequate nutrition.

It should come as no surprise then that in rural schools athletic facilities are virtually non-existent. But that doesn't stop the children's love of playing competitive sports.

The soccer field in the small village runs slanted down towards the river. It is compactly situated between two school buildings and the school outhouses, and there are no nets.

But two teams ferociously defend their nets made of tin cans and buckets like they are in the middle of the World Cup. The players control the ball with ease, skilfully playing the ball out of the air and dribbling around their friends in the crowded yard.

Next to the makeshift soccer field a group of girls start a baseball game. The school owns one ball and one bat. First base is marked by a drainpipe on the side of the school house. Second base is an old shingle plucked from the garbage pile, while third base is simply a tall clump of weeds growing in the grass.

The first pitch of the game is drilled past the pitcher into centre field. It misses a soccer player's head by inches and rolls into the midst of the soccer game. Classmates cheer as a fielder bravely charges into the mayhem to recover the ball, and as the slugger triumphantly rounds the bases.

In the absence of adequate space, equipment and facilities, these children prove that sport has the power to live on.

If you have the people, you have a game.

Sport also lives in an orphanage in the Belizean capital of Belmopan. The tiny dusty yard, also home to three orphaned dogs, has a scraggly-looking volleyball net draped from the outside fence to the orphanage building.

It didn't take long before the house rules of the yard were evident to the visitors. If the ball goes over the fence and onto the road, it is out. If the ball lands on the roof of the building and rolls off the overhang back into the court, it is in.

An interesting game develops as the players enthusiastically play the ball off the roof to keep the rally going.

The differences between the Belizean children and their Canadian equivalents are as plentiful as their similarities. Belizean games rage on with no adult supervision and group dynamics are much more apparent.

In a country where everyday presents a new struggle, these kids can take comfort in the fact that there is always a game going on, with friends to play with.

At times like this, the true meaning of sport shines through.

Two teams ferociously defend their nets made of tin cans and buckets like they are in the middle of the World Cup.

Intramural league winners

A classic confrontation of hunter and prey at Centennial Stadium last Saturday.

Martlet photo by Karl Medig

Basketball
Mon. Women's 4 on 4
Misfits

Field Hockey
The Whirling Dervishes

Ice Hockey
Wednesday
Smugglers
Friday
Ring of Fire

Inline Hockey
Begbie Blades

Indoor Soccer
Wednesday
Foots 'R' Us

Softball
Two Scoops of Stupid

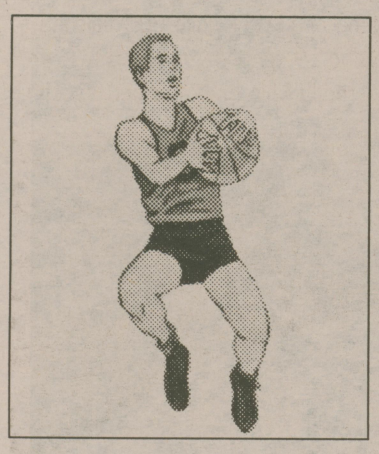
Outdoor Soccer
Sunday
Steamers
Tuesday
Alcophiles

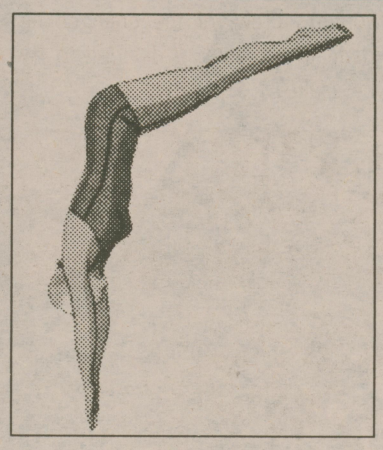
Volleyball
Mon.-Recreation
Yellow Beetle Bugs
Mon.-Competitive
Team #1

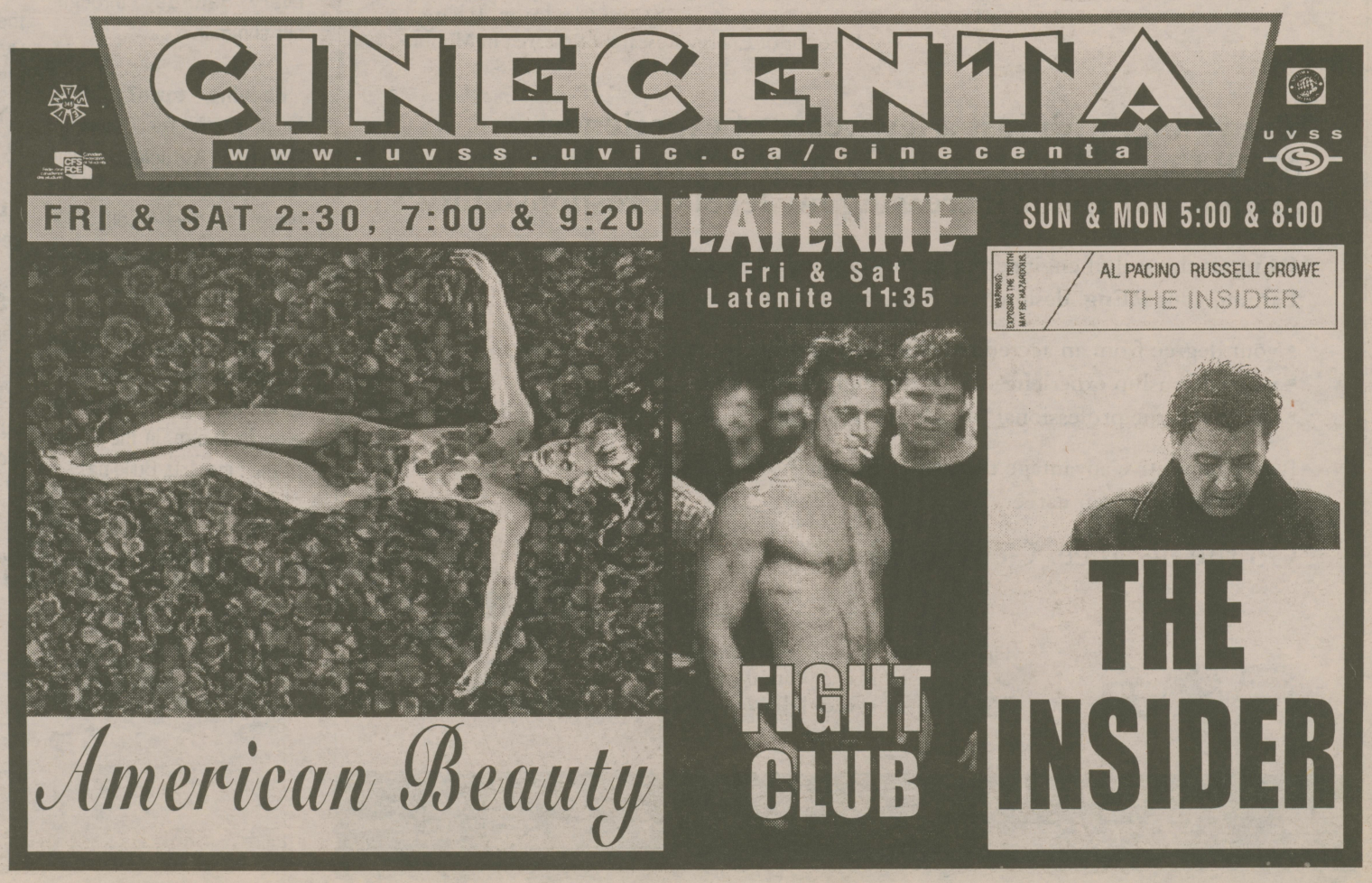
Ultimate
Thurs.-Recreation
The Team Formerly Known as Team 5
Thurs.-Competitive
Giddy-Up

Flag Football
Dog Pound

Notice:
All the intramural leagues have not finished playing yet. Since this is the last *Martlet* of this semester, check the intramural boards in McKinnon and Gordon Head for postings of the other winners.







on-campus

Your bicycle deserves to be safe and dry. Rent a UVic bike locker now. Students pay $5 until the end of April or $21 until the end of August. Faculty/Staff pay $8 until end of April or $28 until end of August. Key deposit required. Visit SUB Info Booth or phone 721-8355. More Info at web.uvic.ca/uvbikes.

Prayer meeting! Monday to Friday at 7:30 a.m. University Centre. "But we all with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the spirit of the Lord." ~Paul

Muphins and weaving: Thank you to everyone who took part in the Underwater Basket Weaving Club this year. It was an amazing first year at UVic and we look forward to next year. Continue to spread awareness of the Madagascarian art of basket weaving and may we celebrate the artistic diversity on campus. One last event will be held at the fountain on Wednesday, April 12 – muffins will be served. If you have any more questions or concerns you can e-mail us throughout the summer and during exam time for help at picimamma@hotmail.com

The Circle K Club meets **every Wednesday, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.** in CLE C112. Come out and join us. Low commitment and volunteer projects. For more information contact rvcolson@uvic.ca

volunteers

True community is built from the inside out. "Community Connections" reaches out to persons who have a developmental disability, fostering friendship, community inclusion and shared fun! Consider spending a few hours each week as a mentor and friend – and find out how you can make a difference. For info call Citizen Advocacy at 598-6786.

for sale

1988 Toyota Corolla. White, 5-speed, 4-door. Must sell. $4000 O.B.O. Phone Amy at 382-7084.

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suitemoves.com, student-run moving/delivery service from $30. "real service in a virtual world." Call 704-6683 for details.

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tutors

The Thinkery: Tutoring for English/humanities $20/hr. Excelling in the Arts. $18 (M.A. graduate, Wagner Fellow ('95), author). Proofreading, mentorial service, etc. Phone 595-8438 or fax 595-8401.

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Professional writer (B.A.) will tutor English/ESL. Amaryllis 592-0976.

announcements

Come get your money! Before you take off for parts unknown, come request your cheque at **SUBtext** for consignment sales! We only hold last year's money until August 31 so come on in!

Looking to sell your Ani Difranco concert ticket for her Vancouver show? If so, please call Paula at 598-8148.

The Moss Street Market is starting another season of markets on Saturday, May 13. Check out the huge variety of vendors, vegetables, crafts and delicious foods. Markets, located at Sir James Douglas (Thurlow and Moss), start at **10 a.m. and run until 2 p.m. every Saturday** throughout summer.

Leaving town? Too much stuff? The Canadian Diabetes Association will pick up clothes at your place for free! Call 380-3024. It's for a great cause!

Huge garage sale! Fundraiser for a local film. Saturday, April 8 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Foyer of the Fine Arts Building.

help wanted

Easy money on the Internet by reading e-mail, listening to the radio or surfing the net. E-mail ddare@home.com for free links

Band members wanted: musicians and female vocalist for theatrical band. Must have at least three years experience and be an Anime fan as well. Music style is War and Apollo Smile mixed together. Contact musician@BC1.com or 388-7360.

lost & found

Lost, near end of February on UVic campus: one pocket watch, colour is silvery bronze, one and a half inches in diameter, the numbers on the watch have a caligraphy look to them. It comes with a black leather case attached with a silver chain. The back is inscribed. Reward of $25 for its return. Please contact Michael at (604) 278-1958.

Lost on Wednesday, March 22 in parking lot #2 (by Bookstore): a silver Native artwork barrette, approximately 10 cm long. Reward! **Huge sentimental value!** Call collect, Alison Rimmer in Comox – 250-339-5788.

hey you!

Satan: it's been lots and lots of. . . fun. Don't forget to clean up after the vermin and goddamnit, get out once in a while.

To the cute boy who sits beside me in writing 104, you finally got your "hey you" so stop pouting. Keep in touch this summer – I'm in the book.

To all my jet settin' funky butt friends, have a great summer. . . and to the sexy-ass heavy breather out east, I just can't wait until you get here.

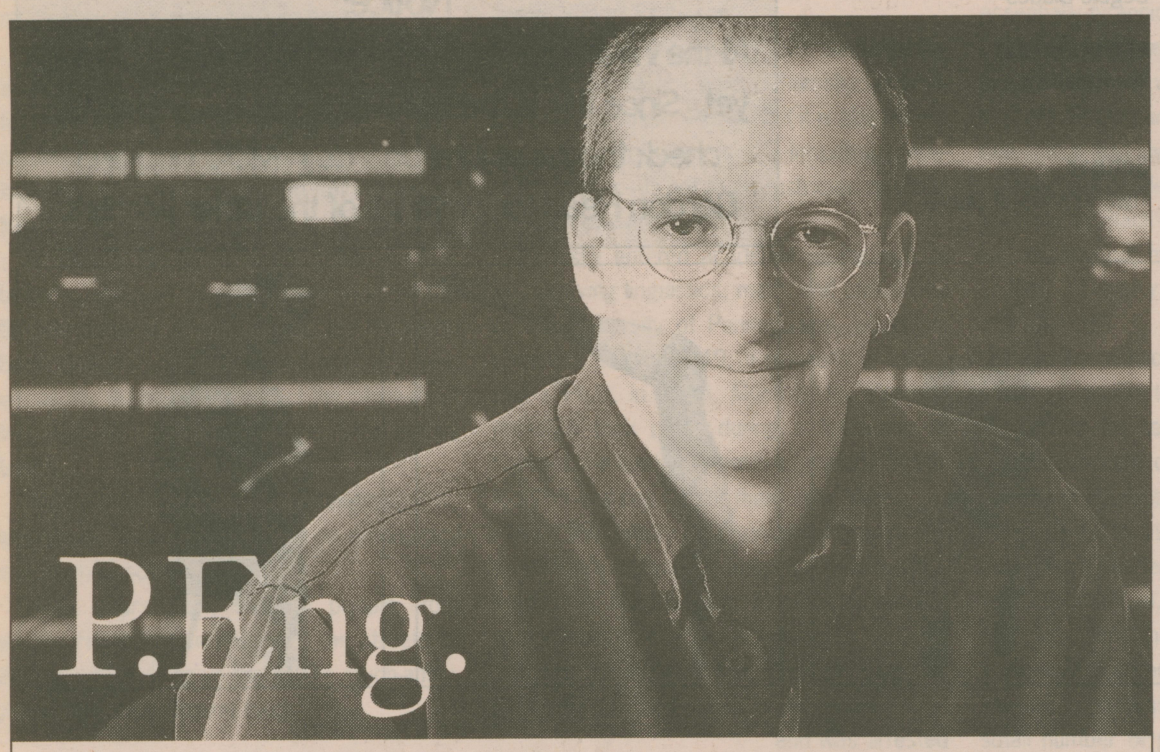
Chelsea and Rachel, you're SEXY. And just because you're going to Nanaimo this summer doesn't mean you have to become alcoholics. Just say no.

I've been looking at you all year, but I just can't work up the nerve to speak to you. You have long curly brown hair and you drive the #4 bus every weeknight at 6:23 from the UVic bus loop. I think your name is Hal. Toffee?

Yippee Yo, yo, yo. Happy Happy Birthday to Tim, Danni and Sho!

Lick my thighs, Jesus. And don'tcha ferget ta floss!

Shoes are like relationships, some like comfy, reliable shoes, some have whole closets full of shoes and wear more than one pair in one day, some have shoes that look good, but after a few hours of wear make your feet bleed.



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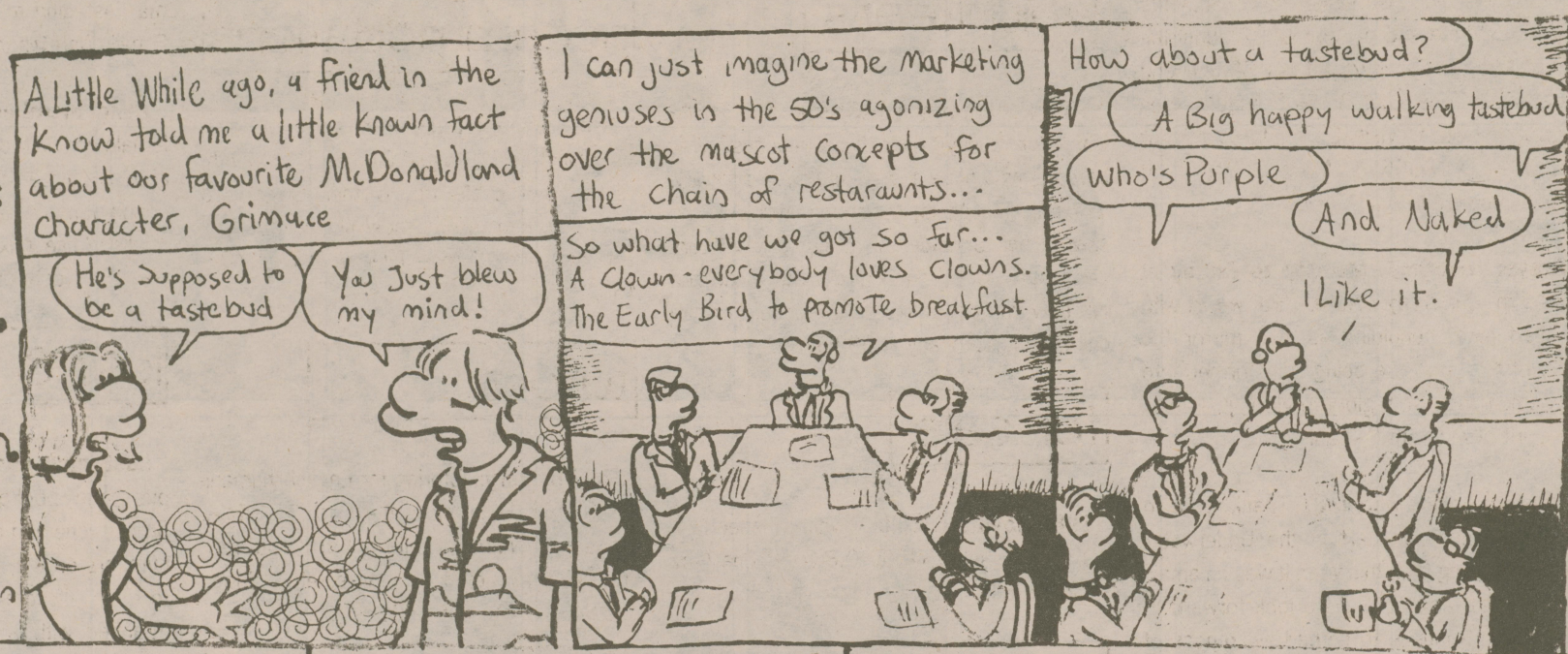
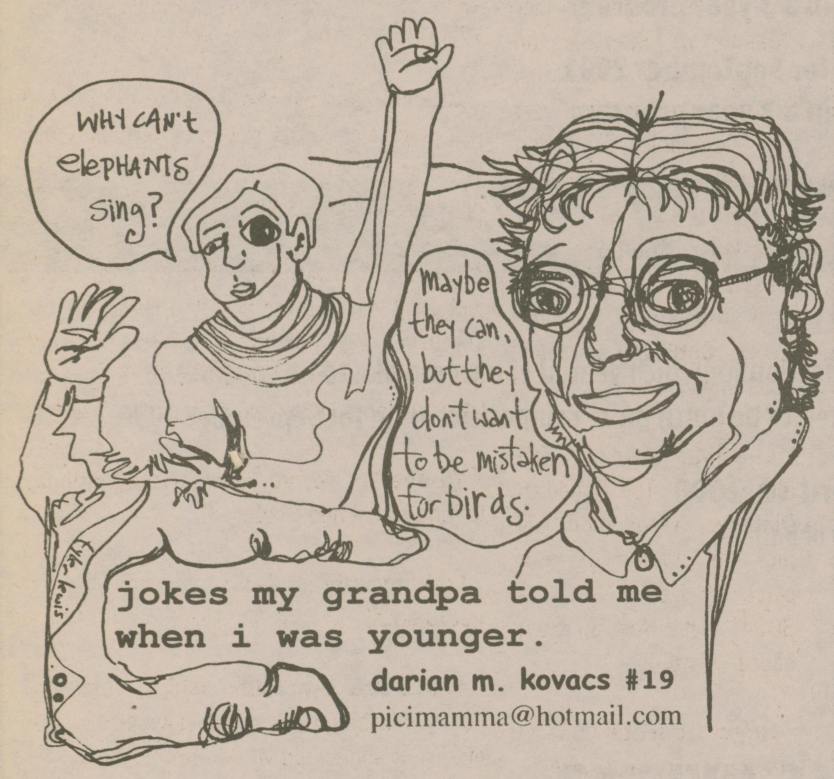
Praise The Lord, It's: Comics for Your Church

By Brian Fukushima

▸Http://Go.to/Simplebrian





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